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Japan

Tokyo, U.S. To Discuss Global Cooperation

OW1705101494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Japan and the United States will hold a subcabinet-level meeting May 24 in Washington to discuss global cooperation, one of three areas in the bilateral trade "framework" talks, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi and Sozaburo Okamatsu, vice trade minister for international affairs, will attend the meeting, the official said. Undersecretary of State Timothy Wirth will head the U.S. delegation.

The two countries are expected to discuss bilateral cooperation to battle illegal drugs, promote children's health, protect coral and observe geological processes, in addition to five fields that the two nations have been discussing under the framework talks, the official said.

Japan and the U.S. have been studying bilateral cooperation on the environment, technology, the development of human resources, population and AIDS.

Unlike the other two deadlocked areas of the framework talks—macroeconomic and microeconomic areas—the negotiations on global cooperation have seen some progress.

Minister Hopes Trade Talks Bring 'Political Decision'

OW1705030094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0225 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Japanese Trade Minister Eijiro Hata said Tuesday he hopes that subcabinet-level talks with the United States this week will pave the way for "a political decision" on resuming bilateral trade "framework" negotiations.

Speaking at a press conference, International Trade and Industry Minister Hata said the high-level talks will take place in Washington from Thursday.

Apart from the Washington talks, a subcabinet-level U.S. trade official may visit Tokyo in the near future, Hata said.

Hata said Sozaburo Okamatsu, vice international trade and industry minister for international affairs, and Sadayuki Hayashi, deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, will be sent to Washington for the talks, the duration of which has yet to be fixed.

Hata said they will not carry "specific answers" to three new U.S. proposals presented to Tokyo in April as conditions for resuming the negotiations on a new framework for bilateral trade.

The two Japanese officials will strive to "bridge the perception gap" between the two countries, Hata said.

The framework talks have been deadlocked since the February summit between then Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton. The two sides have been at odds over the U.S.-proposed "objective criteria" for gauging American access to Japanese markets.

Turning to Russia's participation in political talks at the Naples summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries in July, Hata said he personally supports the idea.

The global trend is moving toward accepting Russia as a new member of the G-7 club, he said.

Ozawa Rejects Calls For SDP Return to Coalition

OW1605123694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Political powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa called on the ruling coalition on Monday [16 May] to have confidence in its mission while rejecting proposals to permit the return of the maverick Social Democratic Party to the fold.

In a speech in Chiba, the Shinseito secretary general rejected any plans to do away with the intraparliamentary group "Kaishin (Innovation)" if it would entice the return of the second largest opposition party, which bolted from the coalition last month.

"The ruling party must have this kind of confidence. We must be able to have confidence in our ideals and answer the expectations of the people," said Ozawa, the acknowledged architect of the ruling minority coalition.

Earlier Monday, Takashi Yonezawa, secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Party, and Japan New Party executive Masao Matsuoka suggested the ruling coalition would be willing to withdraw plans for "Kaishin" if it would entice the return of the SDP.

Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata will formally inform SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama on Tuesday of the suggestion and urge the SDP to rejoin the coalition.

The SDP, however, has charged that there is still an "authoritarian character" to the current coalition and denied that there was any possibility of a return of the SDP to the ruling force.

The SDP withdrew from the ruling coalition only hours after it had helped elect Tsutomu Hata premier, upset by maneuvers by other coalition parties to form the new political alignment without the party.

Ozawa warned that in the event of general elections, the largest opposition Liberal Democratic Party would win by a landslide and that the "only other survivor would be Shinseito."

"We must not think only of the advantages before us and turn left or turn right. The socialists and Komeito were with us when we decided to proceed and we must think about achieving an historically great achievement," urged Ozawa.

Ozawa dismissed suggestions by murayama and new party Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura that the House of Representatives be dissolved for elections under the current electoral system.

"That is only the talk of people who do not have the right to decide on the dissolution. The cabinet will make that decision," said Ozawa.

Hata Urges Key Ministers To Take Lead on Deregulation

OW1705023394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0156 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata on Tuesday urged his select cabinet ministers to take the initiative in coming up with tough deregulation measures by the end of June, Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai said.

Hata, in seeking their cooperation at a top-level meeting, called the task of carving out effective measures for deregulation the mission of his cabinet, the top government spokesman told reporters.

The gathering comes at a time when the government is struggling to flesh out a package of market-opening measures unveiled in March in a bid to break the impasse in stalled trade talks with the United States by June, he said.

The relaxation of economically restrictive government regulations forms the core of the fresh substantial market-opening package aimed at stimulating the sluggish Japanese economy and its appetite for imports.

Tuesday's meeting followed a similar session held Friday where Hata and five key cabinet ministers agreed on the need to come up with powerful deregulatory steps by the end of June.

"We have only 50 more days," Kumagai said, in reference to the deadline for the formulation of the additional mart-opening package. "The pace of our efforts will be quickened significantly."

On top of key cabinet ministers, the meeting brought together heads of ministers and agencies holding control over a number of regulations.

Among participants were Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii, International Trade and Industry Minister Eijiro Hata, Koshiro Ishida, Chief of the Management and Coordination Agency and Yoshio Terasawa, head of the Economic Planning Agency.

Other participants included the heads of the health and welfare, farm, transport, posts, construction and home affairs ministries as well as the chief of the National Land Agency.

LDP Plans To Demand Hata's Resignation

OW1705071294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0648 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Tuesday [17 May] told Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata the main opposition force will demand the prime minister's resignation after the fiscal 1994 national budget clears the Diet, a senior LDP official said.

"When the budget is acted upon, we will again call on you to shape up," LDP President Yohei Kono said in a meeting with Hata in an indication that the LDP will submit a no-confidence motion against the Hata cabinet.

Kono also noted the Hata administration is "a government under abnormal circumstances" and urged Hata to be aware that his government is a minority one, Yoshiro Mori, LDP secretary general, told a news conference.

The remarks apparently reflect the LDP chief's belief that the Hata cabinet will have completed its duties when it passes the key budget through the Diet.

Kono, responding to the prime minister's call for the LDP's cooperation in Diet debate on the long-overdue budget, revealed his party is ready to cooperate in an active manner if the government admits its responsibility for the delay in budget discussions.

Hata also called on the LDP to extend a helping hand to the coalition government on political reform and tax system reform, Naoto Kitamura, deputy chief cabinet secretary, told a separate news conference.

The prime minister, who leads the first minority government in 39 years, spoke pointedly of the need to enact a bill that demarcates a new constituency map for House of Representatives elections, according to Kitamura.

The encounter between Hata and Kono is the first since Hata took to the helm of the government on April 28. Hata was accompanied by Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai and Kitamura, while Kono attended along with Mori and LDP Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Sadatoshi Ozato.

During the one-hour meeting held in the Diet building, Hata also reiterated there is no backpedalling in his government's policy of charting a course for sweeping tax system reform by the end of June so as to enact necessary legislation by the year's end.

While the premier expressed his determination to carry out drastic deregulation, the LDP leader showed willingness to cooperate in reviewing economic regulations, Kitamura said.

On former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's alleged involvement in improper financial dealings, Kono pressed a demand the government agree to summon Hosokawa to the Diet as a sworn witness, Mori said.

Hata's meeting with Kono was the first in a series of meetings with leaders of political parties outside the ruling coalition.

The premier also was to meet later Tuesday with Social Democratic Party Chairman Tomiichi Murayama, New Party Sakigake Leader Masayoshi Takemura, and Michihiko Kano, head of the new party Mirai.

To Submit No-Confidence Motion

OW1705033694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will submit a no-confidence motion against the cabinet of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata after passage of the fiscal 1994 budget through the Diet, a senior party official said Tuesday.

"Mr. Hata's role will be over once he passes the budget through the Diet," Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the main opposition party, told a news conference. Mori blamed the cabinet of former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa for the long delay in the Diet budget debate, saying it put off the formulation of the budget from the usual year-end till this year to give top priority to political reform. "At the time, Mr. Hata was deputy prime minister," he said, indicating Hata should also be blamed for the delay in passage of the state budget, which is six weeks overdue.

Mori also said the LDP and the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [SDPJ], a member of Hosokawa's ruling coalition that collapsed in April, share a perception that Hata's minority government does not reflect the will of the Japanese people.

The SDPJ also sees the Hata cabinet as one to only handle the budget, Mori added.

The SDPJ walked out of the coalition shortly after Hata was elected premier in late April, in protest against the formation by other coalition partners of a new parliamentary group excluding the SDPJ. After the withdrawal of the SDPJ from the coalition, the LDP and the SDPJ, archrivals for decades, have moved to cooperate to put pressure on the Hata administration.

Finance Ministry Calls For 7 Trillion Yen Cut

OW1705024394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0215 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—The government should curb spending by more than 7 trillion yen to limit dependence on bonds, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday [17 May].

The ministry presented its fiscal reform policy with a five-year budget outlook through fiscal 1997 in a report submitted to the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, which started deliberations on the fiscal 1994 budget Tuesday.

The report takes into account neither the planned income and other tax cuts for calendar 1994 nor the deficit-covering bonds to cover the tax cuts since the ruling coalition parties are still to decide on permanent tax reform by the end of the year.

Given such uncertainties, the ministry does not actually believe future budgets will match the estimates of the report, a budget bureau official told reporters.

The report said budget outlays must be reduced by more than 7 trillion yen annually over three years starting in fiscal 1995 to match the anticipated tight revenues and avoid excessive bond issuance.

On the revenue side, the ministry estimates that 850 trillion yen from bonds must be trimmed annually to hold bond revenues to 5 percent of the budget outlays in fiscal 1999.

The share of bond revenues in the fiscal 1994 budget is estimated at 18.7 percent, up from 11.2 percent in the initial fiscal 1993 budget and the highest since 19.4 percent in fiscal 1987.

The report came after the ministry postponed its five-year target of reducing bond reliance to 5 percent of the budget by fiscal 1995.

When accounting for fiscal reform, the ministry expects the outstanding bond balance, excluding 3.13 trillion yen in deficit- financing bonds to cover the tax cuts, to peak in fiscal 2002 at 211.40 trillion yen after rising steadily from 197.50 trillion yen in fiscal 1994.

If red-ink bonds for covering the tax cuts are included, the ministry estimates the balance will top 200 trillion yen for the first time in fiscal 1994 to reach 201 trillion yen.

But even if the bond balance peaks in fiscal 2002, the ministry estimates it will remain at the 200 trillion yen level until at least fiscal 2007.

The ministry has been insisting the government tackle the swelling bond balance since higher debt-servicing costs would put a squeeze on policy expenditures.

Finance Minister Says Budget Delay Bad for Economy

OW1705023894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0148 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii expressed concern Tuesday [17 May] that the delay in getting the fiscal 1994 budget through parliament could put a damper on the economy, and stressed the need to limit the adverse effects.

"I can't deny that a long delay in (passing) the budget will affect the economy," Fujii told a regular news conference after a morning cabinet meeting.

Diet deliberations for the full 40 trillion yen budget for fiscal 1994 that started April 1 have been deadlocked because of political turmoil, and are to resume later Tuesday.

With about two months usually needed for a full budget to pass the Diet, however, the government decided last week to supplement for 40 days an already implemented 50-day 11 trillion yen stopgap budget that expires Friday.

"We must minimize the effects," Fujii added. But he did not spell out any concrete measures, saying the necessary public works and other outlays are included in the provisional budget.

The minister said, however, that fresh outlays in policy-related areas, such as infrastructure spending under the government's stimulus package, cannot be included in the planned supplementary budget, just as they could not be in the expiring stopgap budget.

Fujii said that he emphasized the importance for Japan to detail deregulatory steps in line with the March market-opening package during related ministerial talks held before the cabinet meeting.

Noting that Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata "strongly" called for political leadership at each ministry and agency, Fujii said the Finance Ministry will positively consider deregulation in financial services and insurance, which are particularly mentioned in the package.

But he said deregulation may cause some "pain" such as unemployment, and called for steadily implementation of the jobs and other welfare measures included in the full budget.

Vice Finance Minister Renews Concern on Delayed Budget

OW1605105894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito restated Monday [16 May] his worries about the delayed fiscal 1994 budget and confirmed that a planned supplementary stopgap budget will not include new policy outlays.

"With no new policy measures such as fresh public works, I can't say that there will be no effects on the economy at all," Saito told a regular news conference.

Last week, the government decided to supplement a 40-day 11 trillion yen provisional budget on the 40 trillion yen budget for fiscal 1994 that started April 1. The stopgap budget expires on May 20.

Diet deliberations on the full budget, deadlocked due to political turmoil, is expected to begin soon with still lingering uncertainties.

Saito said details of the planned supplementary budget is still undecided, but noted that new policy outlays will not be included as in the provisional budget.

"That's why we are calling for early passage of the full budget," he said.

Turning to tax issues, Saito said current laws do not allow for different advisory panels to the prime minister to form a joint subcommittee, thus denying such reported plans by the tax and administrative reform committees.

He also brushed aside reports that some members of the coalition parties are insisting that deciding on permanent income tax cuts alone and leaving offsetting tax hikes would be sufficient measures to take as Japan promised to do only that in its March market-opening package.

"I shouldn't comment on things that I haven't heard," saito said.

But referring to Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's policy speech, he noted, "we are to decide on full tax reform in June and make it into law by the end of the year."

LDP's Kono Views Budget Debate, Political Reform

OW1705102594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—The leader of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) told Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata on Tuesday [17 May] that the LDP plans to demand his resignation after the Diet enacts the fiscal 1994 national budget, a senior LDP official said.

"When the budget is acted upon, we will again call on you to shape up," LDP President Yohei Kono said in a meeting with Hata, an indication that the party will submit a no-confidence motion against the three-week-old Hata cabinet.

Describing the Hata administration as "a government under abnormal circumstances," Kono pressed the premier to be aware that his government is a minority one, LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori told a news conference.

The remarks apparently reflect Kono's notion that the Hata cabinet will have completed its duties when the key budget clears the diet.

The encounter between Hata and Kono, the first since Hata took office April 28, was the first in a series of meetings with leaders of political parties outside the governing coaliton.

Later Tuesday, Hata also met Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Tomiichi Murayama, new party Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura and Michihiko Kano, head of new party Mirai, in efforts to seek cooperation on such major issues as the Diet budget debate, political reform and tax system reform.

In response to the premier's call for the LDP's cooperation in Diet debate on the budget, Kono made it clear his party is ready to extend a helping hand if the government admits its responsibility for the delay in budget discussion, Mori said.

The heads of the SDP, Sakigake and Mirai also expressed a desire to cooperate in passing the budget, now overdue by one and a half months, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Naoto Kitamura told a separate news conference.

On political reform, however, Murayama told reporters he has expressed his concern about the ruling parties' apparent move to give higher priority to debate on a yet-unformulated bill that demarcates new constituenies for House of Representatives elections.

Takemura, the chief cabinet secretary under former prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa, also said he has told Hata the government should leave the matter of a new electoral map up to an independent council of seven experts established within the Prime Minister's Office.

During a talk with Murayama, Hata reportedly sought the SDP's cooperation on policy issues and renewed his call for the party to return to the ruling coalition.

The SDP, the largest contingent in Hosokawa's ruling coalition, departed the union after other coalition partners abruptly formed a new parliamentary group, excluding the SDP. The move forced Hata to form the first minority government in 39 years.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai, who accompanied Hata in the series of talks, told a news conference he has a feeling the leaders of the four parties "are warmly evaluating Hata's efforts" to tackle a number of challenges.

"Spring has come today, that's how I feel right now," the top government spokesman said.

Tokyo, Tashkent Sign Joint Statement on Ties

OW1705104994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata and Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov issued a joint statement Tuesday [17 May] outlining the framework for future bilateral relations, foreign ministry officials said.

Hata and Karimov, who arrived in Japan on Monday for a four-day visit, signed the statement at the prime minister's official residence prior to holding talks, the officials said.

The statement said Japan and Uzbekistan agreed that "expansion of political dialogue is a beneficial and effective way to promote bilateral relations and affirmed the importance of exchanging opinions on matters of mutual interest, including international and regional problems."

The two sides also confirmed that treaties and international agreements concluded between Japan and the former Soviet Union have been applied and remain effective between Japan and Uzbekistan "with the exception of those which cannot meaningfully exist" between the two nations, it said.

Foreign ministers Koji Kakizawa of Japan and Saidmukhtar Saidqasymov of Uzbekistan exchanged letters confirming that, it said.

The statement also said Uzbekistan "expressed the hope that Japan would become a permanent member of the UN Security Council and fulfill its relevant responsibilities."

The two nations affirmed that they would contribute to enhancing the role and authority of the United Nations and would cooperate to achieve the aims of the UN Charter, according to the statement.

Both sides also affirmed their intention to consult and cooperate at the UN and other international organizations to maintain international peace and security to contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, it said.

Japan voiced hope that Uzbekistan would contribute to maintaining stability in central Asia while the Uzbek side expressed its intention to play an active role there, the statement said.

Uzbekistan also vowed to accomplish large-scale privatization to promote reconstruction of its economy and to improve the welfare of the people, it said.

Japan gave high marks to Uzbekistan's economic reforms and welfare policies and voiced support for such efforts. Japan also unveiled plans to extend a wide range of technical assistance in such fields as economic management, it said.

Japan and Uzbekistan also shared concern over environmental problems in Uzbekistan exemplified by those in the Aral Sea and agreed on the importance of environmental protection, the statement said.

30 Volunteers Flee Yemen, Arrive in Narita 17 May

OW1705100694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., May 17 KYODO—Thirty Japanese volunteers from the Japan International Cooperation Agency arrived at Narita Airport Tuesday [17 May] after fleeing strife-torn Yemen via Paris.

The group included five medical and technical experts and 25 Japan Overseas Cooperation volunteers and family members, agency officials said.

The only Japanese remaining in Yemen are five Japanese Embassy officials in Sanaa. Some 100 Japanese have already left the country, the Foreign Ministry said.

The embassy advised Japanese residents and tourists to evacuate Sanaa on May 7, three days after the Yemeni Government declared a state of emergency because of fighting between northern and southern army units and shelling in the capital.

Foreign Ministry Sources Detail G-7 Summit Schedule

OW1605154694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1458 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpt] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—The schedule for the July summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers in Naples has now taken shape, Foreign Ministry sources said Monday [16 May].

The sources said that according to a provisional schedule worked out among the sherpas, or the personal representatives of the G-7 leaders, the summit leaders will begin their dialogue with a working dinner on the evening of July 8.

The leaders will consider economic issues in a formal session on July 9, a day which will also see the release of an economic declaration, as well as separate meetings among the foreign ministers and the finance ministers of the G-7.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin will make his first appearance at the Naples summit on the evening of July 9, when he attends a banquet.

On July 10, Yeltsin will join in political deliberations among the G-7 leaders on specific topics such as the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. But the sources said there remain other topics to be discussed only among the G-7 countries themselves.

Later in the day, the G-7 countries will issue a chairman's summary and a political declaration. Along with Russia, the economic powers will also issue a political statement regarding the former Yugoslavia.

In the case of previous summits, the Kremlin leader only joined the G-7 leaders after their talks were already finished for a special "G-7-plus-one" session. [passage omitted]

Saito Says 'Too Early' for Russia's G-7 Membership

OW1605094394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Japan considers it to be "too early" for Russia to become a full member of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers, Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito said Monday [16 May].

Saito told a press conference that Tokyo considers it too soon to include Russia in all discussions at G-7 summits because Japan does not yet have a peace treaty with Russia and because Russia still does not have the same status as other G-7 nations despite its reform efforts.

Other G-7 nations also share the same view, Saito said.

Saito said, however, the "sherpa" or personal representatives of G-7 leaders, are currently discussing ways to hold dialogue with Russia during the G-7 summit talks.

The prevailing view in the sherpa meeting is that it is necessary to include Russia, at least partially, in discussions on political topics to which Russia has some connections, such as the problems in the former Yugoslavia, Middle East and Eastern Europe, Saito said.

But the sherpas are negative on including Russia in discussions on economic matters because although Russia is making reform efforts, it is still a recipient of economic and financial aid, he said.

Delegation Departs Nemuro for Etorofu Island

OW1405002294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0007 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, May 14 KYODO—A 48-member Japanese delegation left Nemuro by ship Saturday [14 May] morning for Etorofu Island, one of four disputed Russian islands claimed by Japan, under a visa-free exchange program.

Organizers said the group include 24 former residents of the island and nine members involved in a campaign for the return to Japan of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai Group of islets.

The latest group of Japanese to make a visa-free visit to the Russian-held islands off Hokkaido's eastern tip will land at Etorofu on Sunday morning and later tour the island, the organizers said.

On Monday, the group will visit Japanese graves, a school and a fish processing plant. The group will return to Nemuro on Tuesday.

Another group returned to Nemuro Friday after two nights on Kunashiri under the three-year-old visa-free exchange program. It was the first group of the year to travel to the disputed islands.

A Russian group visited Hokkaido in April.

The four islands were overrun by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

SDPJ Delegation Leaves on Visit to China

OW1505031494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—A delegation from Japan's No. 2 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SPJ], flew to Beijing on Sunday [15 May] for an eight-day visit to mark the 10th anniversary of exchanges with China's Communist Party.

SDP General Secretary Wataru Kubo is leading the mission.

During their stay in China through May 22, Kubo and his party will meet with Chinese officials on Japan's political scene and North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program, party officials said.

DPRK Parliamentarian To Visit Tokyo 31 May-2 Jun

OW1605141294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—A member of the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly will visit Japan to attend a three-day religious conference in Tokyo beginning May 31, conference organizers said Monday [16 May].

Visiting from Pyongyang will be Kang Yong-sop, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians' Federation, according to officials of the pro-Seoul Korean Christian Church in Japan.

Kang, a former North Korean ambassador to Romania, is a vice chairman of the Korea-Japan Friendship Association and a member of the Reunification Policy Committee.

The officials said Kang and his delegation have already received permission to visit Japan from the Justice Ministry and are expected to arrive as early as May 27.

Ichikawa on Domestic Politics, DPRK Issue

OW1605063194

[Editorial Report] Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese at 2230 GMT on 14 May in its 75-minute "FNN News 2001" talk show carries a 33-minute live interview with Yuichi Ichikawa, acting Komeito Chairman. The program is moderated by Yuji Kuroiwa and Megumi Sekito. Keio University professor Yoshiaki Kobayashi, a regular guest on the program, and commentator Yoshimi Ishikawa also take part.

The interview with Ichikawa begins at 2315 GMT. Moderator Kuroiwa reviews recent political turmoil caused by the secession of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) from the coalition following the formation by its partners of the Kaishin parliamentary group and then asks why Komeito did not join Kaishin.

Ichikawa says: "Frankly speaking, our party was not asked to join the group."

He explains how the group was formed, noting that "although the Kaishin group was established, it is not functioning well."

He adds: "Komeito will see how the situation develops, and we hope the SDPJ will come back to the coalition," saying no one wanted to see further discord between the coalition and the SDPJ.

Ichikawa is asked to comment on the resignation of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) member Nagano as justice minister to take responsibility for his careless remarks on the Nanjing Massacre.

He says: "I think within Shinseito, which is a breakaway of the Liberal Democratic Party, there are some members who share Nagano's view. However, that does not mean Nagano's remarks represent Shinseito's view."

He is also asked about Komeito's policy toward North Korea.

Ichikawa says: "Our party has three principles. First, the issue should be solved through tenacious negotiation between North Korea, South Korea, China, and the United States. Second, Japan should follow the United Nations, which will probably make a decision if negotiations end in failure.

"However, as the issue closely concerns Japan's security, it is not something to be left to a United Nations' decision or U.S. action."

He says that if the United Nations should fail to adopt a resolution, "Japan should act in close cooperation with South Korea and the United States. This our party's third principle."

Ichikawa discusses current relations between Komeito and religious group Soka-Gakkai, a major supporter of the party, saying the group has not influenced party policy. He says Komeito has not violated the principle of the separation of religion and politics.

Asked about the possibility of holding a general election under the current electoral system, Ichikawa says: "This would not only break the new electoral system but would set back the effects of the reforming Political Funds Law designed to prevent political corruption."

He says: "We should never hold elections under the current system" because it would undermine all political reform efforts so far.

Poll Says Korean Situation Tops People's Interest

OW1505083094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0804 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—The Korean situation tops the list of international problems that interest Japanese people in connection with the nation's defense, a government survey showed Sunday [15 May].

The survey by the Prime Minister's Office showed that 34 percent of respondents said they are interested in the Korean situation. Relations between the United States and Russia, and Russia's military deployment on islands it holds off Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, each recorded 31 percent.

On the Korean peninsula, tensions are high because of international disputes over North Korea's suspected nuclear arms project.

The Middle East situation led the list at 56 percent in the previous survey in 1991, when the Gulf war occurred.

In the January survey, the ninth of its kind since 1969, the Prime Minister's Office polled 3,000 people aged 20 and older throughout Japan on their awareness about the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and defense issues. Sixty-nine percent responded.

Concerning SDF participation in peacekeeping activities overseas, 48 percent said they approve such action, up from 46 percent in the previous poll, while 31 said they oppose it, up from 28 percent.

Asked about future roles the SDF should play, 34 percent cited dispatch in the case of natural disasters, while 24 percent emphasized protection of national security. International contributions stood at 22 percent.

On the scale of defense capabilities, 66 percent favored maintaining the current level, up 4 percentage points from the previous survey.

Tokyo Resumes Bulgaria-Bound Trade Insurance Coverage

OW1605042494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Japan resumed Monday [16 May] accepting trade insurance coverage for Bulgaria, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

As a first step, the government will establish a credit line of 200 million dollars for the east European country on condition that the country smoothly repays outstanding external debts in line with rescheduling accords in the latest meeting of the Paris Club of western creditor nations, MITI said.

The restart of Bulgaria-bound trade insurance coverage came after Japan's assessment of the recent economic developments in the country, including its accord with the International Monetary Fund on economic reforms, MITI said.

Japan had suspended accepting trade insurance for Bulgaria after the country froze external debt repayments in March 1990.

The Paris Club in its April meeting agreed on a 10-year rescheduling for part of Bulgaria's official debts totaling an estimated 4 billion to 5 billion dollars, including a grace period of six years.

Majority of Japanese Do Not Trust Bureaucrats

OW1505035094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0218 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—A majority of Japanese polled do not have faith in bureaucrats because they do not place priority on the interests of people, a survey by the country's leading daily showed Sunday.

The survey conducted by the ASAHI SHIMBUN found that 51 percent of the respondents said they do not have confidence in bureaucrats, while 44 percent said they can rely on them.

The negative tendency was stronger among younger respondents, with more than 60 percent of pollees in their 20s and 30s saying they do not trust bureaucrats.

When asked about politicians, 61 percent said they do not have faith in them.

The ASAHI conducted the survey May 8 to 9, covering 3,000 people nationwide aged 20 or older. Eighty percent or 2,407 responded.

Sixty-three percent said bureaucrats put the interests of firms, industries and their own ministries and agencies before those of people, while only 14 percent said that bureaucrats are thinking about the interests of people.

Regarding policy decisions, 56 percent said bureaucrats have more power than the ruling political parties. When asked how they feel about the bureaucrat-led decision-making system, however, 45 percent said people should not have any say in the matter, while 44 percent responded the system is unavoidable.

More than 70 percent said they have a bad image of bureaucrats, and 28 percent of those respondents said they are not flexible, and 22 percent said they have a strong desire for promotion.

Those who responded favorably toward bureaucrats, saying they are able or are committed, stood at only 21 percent.

On why there are so many regulations in Japan, 33 percent said industries are trying to protect their own interests, while 29 percent replied bureaucrats are sticking with their own prerogatives. Twenty-eight percent said such regulations are necessary to preserve the order of society.

JNP Members Propose Disbanding Parliamentary Group

OW1605050594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0440 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Two senior members of former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's Japan New Party (JNP) proposed Monday [16 May] disbanding a four-party parliamentary group called Kaishin (Innovation), political sources said.

JNP legislators Satsuki Eda and Satoshi Arai filed the proposal with Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, the sources said.

Kaishin comprises 130 members in the House of Representatives of four coalition parties—Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], JNP, the Democratic Socialist Party and Jiyuto (Liberals)—plus five independents.

The April 25 establishment of Kaishin led to the departure of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] from the ruling coalition, forcing Hata to form a minority government.

Kaishin ranks second in terms of strength in the lower house only after the main opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party.

SDP, Sakigake Agree To Try To Reconcile Policy Gaps

OW1605103294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0802 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP) and new party Sakigake, which both quit the ruling coalition last month, agreed Monday [16 May] to initiate policy talks, officials of the two parties said.

The talks will cover Japan's response to North Korea's suspected nuclear arms program, tax system reform and rice prices, the officials said.

SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama and Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura reached the agreement in a meeting Monday, they said.

The SDP, the country's no. 2 opposition party, left the coalition late last month in protest over the establishment of a large parliamentary group that excluded it.

Sakigake earlier declared that it would not take cabinet posts but will cooperate with the cabinet of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata for some time, keeping its distance from the coalition.

Peace Parade Reaches Climax at Park in Kadena

OW1505144694 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0945 GMT 15 May 94

[Annoucer-read report over video; from the NHK news program]

[Text] Members of peace groups, including local labor unions, held a peace rally in Kadena Township today, which marks the 22d anniversary of Okinawa's reversion to Japan. The rally, called the "Okinawan People's Rally To Protect Peace and Livelihood," was sponsored by the Okinawa Peace Movement Center. Approximately 3,000 participants, including members from local labor unions and other organizations, gathered at the rally held at Kaneku beachside park in Kaneku, Kadena Township.

At the rally, Zenshun Arakaki, chairman of the Okinawa Peace Movement Center, which sponsored the rally, first delivered a speech. He said: Even after the conclusion of the battle for Okinawa, the Okinawan people have been deprived of their human rights under U.S. military rule. Twenty-two years have passed since the reversion of Okinawa to Japan, but damages continue to be inflicted upon Okinawa due to U.S. military exercises and accidents. Recently, it was disclosed that there exists a secret deal which was concluded between the Japanese and U.S. Governments regarding Japanese approval of the U.S. military's bringing nuclear weapons to Okinawa in case of emergencies. We cannot allow a situation like this at all. We must now join our hands to turn Okinawa into a peaceful island.

Later at the rally, representatives from various participating organizations delivered speeches, expressing opposition to war and advocating peace. Most of the participants at the rally were those who started marching on 13 May from various locations in the island in the peace parade, during which they walked the streets and appealed for peace. The participants, whose faces were sun-tanned, listened attentively to the speeches. The rally concluded after the participants adopted a resolution calling for immediate removal of U.S. military bases and clarification about the issue of the secret deal regarding bringing nuclear weapons to Okinawa.

Legislators Launch New Policy Study Group in LDP

OW1605132194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Three senior Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) legislators, widely dubbed the "YKK Trio," on Monday [16 May] launched a new policy study group free from factional shackles.

The three vocal opposition politicians are former construction minister Taku Yamasaki, former chief cabinet secretary Koichi Kato and former posts and telecommunications minister Junichiro Koizumi. The name YKK trio is based on the initials of their family names.

"The group new century," headed by Kato, aims to "reform the party, create politics suitable for a new era and open up a new frontier for the future Japan," according to the group's constitution.

The group, which brought together over 60 LDP lawmakers, openly lashed out at Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), the core ruling party headed by Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata but widely believed to be controlled by Ichiro Ozawa, the chief coalition strategist.

It blames Shinseito for inheriting the money-drenched politicking style of the LDP and for trying to manipulate the coalition government from behind the scenes.

The foundation of the new group within the LDP may accelerate moves toward a major reconfiguration of political parties in Japan, political sources said.

As the YKK trio are deemed as the critics of the current LDP leadership, led by President Yohei Kono, the group new century may also help proliferate an antileadership sentiment within the party, the sources said.

Diet To Defer Motion To Oust Steering Committee Chief

OW1605130094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—The House of Representatives decided Monday [16 May] to defer a ballot on a pending motion to strip the ruling coalition's parliamentary kingpin of his chairmanship of the lower chamber's powerful steering committee, political sources said.

If passed by the lower chamber, the motion would relieve Shinseito elder statesman Keiwa Okuda of his duty as the head of the powerful panel, which sets the parliamentary agenda.

The 511-member lower chamber will be unable to convene a plenary session on Tuesday, because the Social Democratic Party (SDP) leadership could not convince some SDP opponents of the motion into voting for it, the sources said.

The Democrats, the SDP's largest policy study group, is now defying the SDP leadership's instruction to vote for the motion, which was earlier submitted to the lower chamber's secretariat by the No. 1 opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The SDP stormed out of the ruling coalition due to its rage over the coalition partners' abrupt decision on April 22 to form a unified parliamentary bloc excluding the SDP. It was considering presenting a unified parliamentary front with the LDP against the coalition, they said.

In view of the rift within the SDP ranks, the LDP dropped its earlier decision to demand a ballot on the motion at Tuesday's plenary session, deciding instead to wait for the SDP leadership to convince its dissidents, LDP officials said.

The LDP had expected the lower chamber to vote in favor of the motion, even if the socialists cast blank votes in view of the decision by the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) to vote for the motion, they said. The LDP has 206 lower house legislators, the SDP 74 and the JCP 15.

The LDP's tactics will prompt the SDP's democrats to intensify its bid to pressure the SDP leadership to instruct SDP legislators to scuttle the motion by voting against it, rather than merely casting blank votes, the sources said.

It requires eliminating the current standoff in the Diet steering committee by Tuesday to enable the ruling coalition to proceed with its original plan to table the long-overdue fiscal 1994 budget bill onto the Diet floor on Wednesday, they said.

The passage of the full budget has already been delayed for six weeks, since the start of fiscal 1994 on April 1.

Government Panels To Push for Taxation Reforms

OW1605141394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1343 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Three key government panels will form a joint conference to press the government to come up with an overall administrative reform plan that is vital to change the taxation system, sources close to the panels said Monday [16 May].

The joint conference plan was agreed by the chairmen of the Tax Commission, the Economic Deliberation Council—both advisory panels to the prime minister—and the Fiscal System Council, an advisory body to the finance minister.

The conference, made up of 10 members sent by the panels, will study such issues as the scrapping and reorganization of government ministries and agencies and the further privatisation of public organizations.

It will present a concrete administrative reform plan to Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata by early June, the sources said.

They said panel leaders agreed that if they leave the long-proposed administrative reforms up to bureaucrats, the plan may lack substance. The leaders believe that the reforms should be carried out with the government taking the initiative, the sources added.

At present, Japan faces the needs to change its taxation system in order to implement income tax cuts designed to stimulate the flagging economy, the sources said.

Also, to cope with the rapid greying of the Japanese society, it is necessary to change the taxation system to secure funds to implement welfare programs for senior citizens, they added.

The panels have urged the government to promote across-the-board discussions between panels responsible for different fields, such as the economy and spending for social security and defense programs.

MITI Urges Upgrading of Infrastructure

OW1705005794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0028 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Japan needs to upgrade its social, economic and other infrastructures in order to enhance its appeal as a major destination for investment by foreign companies, an annual government report on international trade said Tuesday [17 May].

Such efforts would eventually contribute not only to expanding direct foreign investment in this country but also to raising the overall living standards of the Japanese people, according to the fiscal 1994 white paper released by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The paper said an overhaul of institutional systems that hamper smooth industrial activity in Japan would facilitate an inflow of reasonably priced high-grade foreign products into the country and help reduce production costs and living expenses.

The amount of foreign direct investment in Japan has been lower than that of foreign investment in any other major industrial country, the paper said.

Rules and regulations serving as barriers to the creation of new businesses need to be eased, corporate research and development activities should be reinforced and capital market regulations should be relaxed for more international financial transactions between Japan and abroad, it said.

These measures would smooth the way for industrial restructuring in Japan, helping it attain the chief goals of narrowing a price gap between home and abroad, and curtailing its huge global current account surplus.

The global trade structure has been changing rapidly following activation of capital and technology transfers beyond national boundaries which has been traced to the recent surge in international investment, the report said.

Growth of services trade, for example, has gathered momentum on commodities trade, with services trade accounting for 30 percent of overall global trade, it said.

The white paper described investment as "the fountainhead" of global economic growth.

There is a clear correlation between investment and economic growth, it said, noting countries with an average annual investment of over 30 percent as a percentage against their gross domestic product (GDP) scored significantly high economic growth during 1989- 1991.

The white paper said investment is also effective in creating employment on a long-term basis, noting east Asian countries other than Japan, which recorded an increase in investment of around 10 percent during the 1980s, saw employment grow 2 to 3 percent while Japan and European countries with lower investment growth scored a gain of only around 1 percent in their jobs markets.

The paper also noted South Korea, Taiwan and other newly industrializing economies (NIEs) in Asia achieved remarkably high economic growth after turning net investors in the early 1990s, while industrialization in countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) quickened after their active acceptance of foreign investment.

The paper said foreign investment in China, especially on its coastal areas, has been rising sharply, a factor pushing up the country's vibrant economic growth.

Vietnam has been emerging as a major destination of investment, reflecting the resumption of Japan's low-interest yen loans in 1992 and the lifting of U.S. trade sanctions against the country earlier this year, the white paper said.

It said Japan's mammoth current account surplus has been attributed to a chronic excess of its savings over investment.

In 1992, for example, Japan's savings came to 160 trillion yen and its investment 145 trillion yen, leaving a balance of 15 trillion yen which was equal to the current account surplus for the year, the paper said.

In the United States, the current account balance has been in the red for years, due to massive net investment in the public sector stemming from the large budget deficit, the paper said.

The white paper forecast Japan's savings ratio will fall in the future in line with the rapid aging of the society, a factor expected to push down the black ink in the current account balance.

In order for Japan to play a key role in encouraging world investment activity, Japanese companies should conduct their business operations in a manner that would bring about the best interests for global systems of production, distribution and parts procurement, the white paper said.

Specifically, the paper said Japanese firms should stop taking advantage of east Asian countries simply as areas to secure a cheap labor force.

Japan also should take the initiative in promoting free trade in line with the spirit of the recently concluded Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the paper said.

Official Says Retail Prices Lower Than in Survey

OW1605115294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0937 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—A survey on retail prices in Japan by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) indicates that consumers actually pay less for daily necessities than shown in the government's official monthly survey, MITI said Monday [16 May].

MITI's own survey found that prices for 23 of 25 items posted lower price indexes than under the management and coordination agency's official monthly consumer prices survey.

The price index of video tapes, for example, was 171.3 in the February survey by the agency against 100 in the MITI survey conducted during the same month, MITI said.

A MITI official said at a news conference that MITI's survey is more reflective of the actual retail price trend in Japan under the growing emergence of discounters.

The official said MITI used price-evaluating methods including covering products sold in a bundle, such as videotapes and notebooks.

The MITI survey, the first of its kind in Japan, was intended to assess how the Japanese Government's deregulation policy has impacted prices on store shelves, the official said, apparently dismissing arguments that the government has been reluctant to narrow a large price gap between products at home and abroad.

The survey results can be taken to indicate that the purchasing power of Japanese consumers is stronger than generally believed, the official said.

Other products that showed a large price gap with the official price survey included long-sleeved white shirts with an index of 147, tissue paper at 127.9 and television sets at 113.7, all against the base of 100 in the MITI survey.

The MITI survey, conducted in Tokyo, also found that price gaps are wide among the various store categories.

The average retail price index for the 25 items surveyed was 87.2 among discount stores, 113.1 among convenience stores, 96.7 among supermarket chains and 120.5 among department stores.

Such prices gaps from one store category to another indicate not only the intensity of the ongoing price war in the retail sector but also a sharp expansion in product choices available to the consumer, the MITI official said.

Among the polled items, men's underwear showed the sharpest price gap from one store to another, followed by tissue paper, videotapes and winter business suits, MITI said.

On the other hand, items such as shampoo, paper diapers and health beverages showed the smallest price gaps among stores, MITI said, apparently because they are sold at their makers' recommended prices.

EPA Chief Says Economy To Recover in Fiscal '94

OW1605125194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0744 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Japan's chief economic planner said Monday [May 16] the nation's economy will stage a bona-fide recovery during the current fiscal year.

"The Japanese economy will likely get onto a path of full-fledged recovery during fiscal 1994," which started on April 1, said Yoshio Terasawa, director general of the Economic Planning Agency [EPA].

The economy will receive a boost from brisk housing investments and income tax cuts, which will help reduce inventories of durable goods, he said.

He predicted consumer spending will pick up, thereby improving private-sector sentiment, and that capital investments will eventually start recovering.

Consumer spending and corporate capital investments are two main driving forces for the economy.

First Large Shipment of Foreign Apples Arrives

OW1605024494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0105 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Kobe, May 16 KYODO—The first major consignment of foreign apples to enter Japan arrived at the western Japan port of Kobe from New Zealand on Monday [16 may] without fanfare.

The 19 ton shipment of apples represented the first significant importation of foreign apples since the government formally liberalized the domestic apple market in 1971.

Although Tokyo could have allowed imports of foreign apples at that time, it has long maintained an import ban on apples from major exporters such as the United States and New Zealand, citing concerns over the spread of moths or viruses.

But the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has decided to lift the import ban on U.S. and New Zealand apples, saying they have cleared the technical limitations that previously had barred them from Japan.

The first load of apples from New Zealand will go onto store shelves soon after passing inspection at the Kobe quarantine station.

Traders said a total of some 500 tons of foreign apples, including imports from the U.S., are expected to arrive this year.

Farm Minister on Food Control System, Rice

OW1505074294 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1040 GMT 12 May 94

[Interview with Mutsuki Kato, minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, by NHK announcer Yoshiaki Kawabata—live relay from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries in Tokyo; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] [Kawabata] Mr. Kato, thank you for waiting. This is your second time to become minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. During your first term under the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] administration, I suppose you took the position that Japan would never import a single grain of rice. This time, after Japan accepted minimum market access under the Uruguay Round, the situation has changed drastically. How do you look at such a change in the situation?

[Kato] Under the situation where three Diet resolutions [opposing the liberalization of the rice market] existed, the Hosokawa administration decided to accept minimum access to the rice market. I look back with profound thoughts at events in the past.

[Kawabata] Let me ask you questions on specific issues. First, concerning the important issue of reviewing the food control system, different opinions have been expressed on this, and this is supposed to be discussed at the Agricultural Administration Council. The immediate question is whether the system should be revamped radically, including the possibility of abolishing the system altogether, or whether partial revision would be enough. What do you think, Mr. Kato?

[Kato] I think there is an emerging national consensus that the food control system should be revamped. As to what to do with the substance of the revisions, as you just said, this is being handled by the Agricultural Administration Council, and the council is in the process of listening to the views of the various sectors. I do not think it is proper for me to say things in advance. The important thing is to think of Japan's future, and take into consideration our bitter experience in the past, while pondering how to strike a balance between the need to secure stable supplies of rice and other grains, and the need to maintain the incentive for farmers. That is how I think of the food control system.

[Kawabata] However, what you are saying is very difficult to do.

[Kato] Yes. It is extremely difficult, and we do not expect to achieve that easily.

[Kawabata] Mr. Kato, among the consumers, many hold the opinion that they should be allowed to choose different varieties of rice freely. How will you deal with the liberalization of the distribution system?

[Kato] When you look back at the "Heisei rice upheaval [Heisei kome sodo]" last February and March, there were people who clamored for the freedom of choice when foreign rice was being blended with domestic rice, and there were those who favored selling foreign and Japanese rice separately in a set. Furthermore, the people have come to know very well the taste, cooking methods, and prices of foreign rice. I think we will have to take all this into consideration when handling this problem.

[Kawabata] Mr. Kato, are you basically in favor of promoting the liberalization of the distribution system?

[Kato] Deregulation will benefit the people greatly. I would like to consider how to implement this in a manner suitable under the existing conditions, and in a direction that will make rice more readily available to consumers and enhance more freedom of choice.

[Kawabata] Immediately after you took office, you said that correcting the price gap between foreign and Japanese rice—the fact that compared to foreign rice, Japanese rice is extremely expensive—is an important issue. What concrete steps will you take in this regard?

[Kato] In the case of the recent emergency rice imports, there was nothing we could do. The measures taken last year to deal with the economic recession also cost a lot of money. As I said earlier, there is the problem of Japanese rice costing 300,000 yen a ton, while imported rice ranges from 40,000 to 60,000 yen a ton.

Therefore, the job of the Hata administration is not only to correct the price gap between foreign and Japanese rice, but also work on the price gap for all daily necessities of the people. In this context, vigorous steps should be taken to narrow the price gap between Japan and foreign countries for agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products. I would like to manage agricultural administration in such a manner.

[Kawabata] I am sure that is what you think. Do you have anything specific in mind to narrow this price gap?

[Kato] Regardless of my own personal intentions, the people have come to realize keenly the price gap through the recent commotion about rice. There are various issues on which we are seeking the views of the Agricultural Administration Council in the near future that it would not be proper for me to say things in advance now. However, we should keep this problem very much in mind when dealing with agricultural administration from now on. Otherwise, a distrust of the agricultural administration may spread among the people, and this will be terrible. I would like to keep the price gap in mind as the central issue and take various measures in this regard.

[Kawabata] Mr. Kato, under a minority government, I would think it will be very difficult to resolve various issues. What do you think?

[Kato] That is why we will hold up high the banner of reform. The government belongs to the people, and it should serve the people. I believe precisely because we are a minority administration, if we appeal to the people directly in good faith, overcoming the boundary line between ruling and opposition parties, we will be able to open up prospects for the future. If we deal with the price gap issue and all other issues by listening to the voice of the people as the voice of heaven, I think things will turn out right.

[Kawabata] Let me go back to the rice issue, along with the acceptance of minimum access in the Uruguay Round, you are supposed to compile emergency measures on agriculture and the rural areas by July. Can this work be completed by July?

[Kato] Yes, I believe we will have to accomplish that. By that time, there will also be the problem of the producers' rice price. If we failed to compile the emergency measures, we will not be able to win the rice producers' and the people's understanding. I would certainly like to complete this task.

[Kawabata] Thank you.

Ministries Admit Secret Deal for Cooperatives

OW1505120794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—The Finance Ministry and the farm ministry made a secret arrangement last year to take special relief measures for debt-ridden agricultural cooperative financial institutions with low-interest loans from the Bank of Japan (BOJ), financial sources said Sunday [15 May].

Financial institutions affiliated with agricultural cooperatives are saddled with bad loans provided to housing loan companies.

Admitting the existence of the secret arrangement, a senior Finance Ministry officials said two bureau chiefs of the ministry and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry exchanged a memorandum in February 1993 promising that the central bank would extend necessary loans to the governmental Norinchukin Bank.

In return, agricultural cooperative-affiliated financial institutions under the umbrella of Norinchukin Bank agreed to lower or exempt interest on their loans to housing loan companies. The financial institutions had been reluctant to take such action in view of its impact on their business.

The bureau chiefs made the secret deal in the process of drawing up a relief package for Nippon Housing Loan Co., the nation's largest housing loan company, which has been ridden with large nonperforming loans. The deal was not announced at that time.

The memo agreed to provide reductions and exemptions of loan interest to help the farm cooperative-affiliated financial institutions, the sources said.

Such institutions provided 5.5 trillion yen in loans to the seven housing loan companies, accounting for about 40 percent of the total amount of borrowings of the housing loan companies.

The memo said the BOJ would provide necessary loans to Norinchukin Bank because it was feared interest reductions and exemptions for housing loan companies could negatively affect farm cooperative-affiliated financial institutions.

The seven housing loan companies—Nippon Housing Loan Co., Japan Housing Loan Inc., Jyuso Inc., Diichi Housing Loan Co., Housing Loan Service Co., Sogo Jukin Co. and Chigin-Seihio Housing Loan Co—are suffering due to bad loans worth 13.6 trillion yen to realtors.

Bank of Japan, Norinchukin Bank in 'Secret Deal'

OW1505035194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—The Bank of Japan [BOJ] has provided low-interest loans to the Norinchukin Bank in a secret deal between the Finance and Farm Ministries to help farm cooperative- affiliated financial institutions which gave huge loans to housing loan companies, a major national daily reported Sunday.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN said the central bank has provided from tens of billions of yen to about 100 billion yen in loans to the Norinchukin Bank under a memo exchanged between officials of the Finance Ministry and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry in February of last year.

The memo also gives favorable treatment to farm cooperative-affiliated financial institutions under the umbrella of the Norinchukin Bank on the reduction and exemption of loan interest to help them, the daily said. Such institutions provided 5.5 trillion yen in loans to the housing loan companies, it said.

The memo was exchanged for relief measures for Nippon Housing Loan Co., the nation's largest housing loan company, and later applied to those for other housing loan companies, the daily said.

The memo says the BOJ will provide necessary loans to the Norinchukin Bank because it is difficult for farm cooperative- affiliated financial institutions to reduce and redeem interest on loans for housing loan companies.

The daily said seven housing loan companies are having financial difficulties due to bad loans to realtors, with the loans totaling 13.6 trillion yen.

Firm To Set Up Computer Design Unit in UK

OW1605132694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Major Japanese electronics firm Hitachi Ltd. said Monday [16 May] it will establish an electronic device design subsidiary in britain next month to bolster its operations overseas.

The Tokyo-based company said the new firm, Hitachi Micro Systems Europe Ltd., will engage in designing computer chips and support tools as well as development of application technologies.

The company said the new undertaking followed a capital increase of 1.5 million dollars in April by Hitachi Micro Systems Inc., its large-scale integrated circuit design unit established in California in 1978.

The company said it will continue to strengthen its design and development operations in the U.S. and Europe to meet the needs of local customers.

The company has been producing semiconductors at its German subsidiary established in 1980.

It said its production base in the U.S. will start manufacturing microcomputers this fall at a monthly volume of 300,000 units.

Fiscal '93 Public Works Investments 'Highest'

OW1605133194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Public works projects started in fiscal 1993 totaled a record 19,758.5 billion yen, up 7.8 percent from the previous year, the Construction Ministry reported Monday [16 May].

The figure, which marks the ninth straight yearly increase, reflects a series of government moves to bolster public works as part of its economic stimulus packages.

The central government, public corporations and other state agencies placed orders for 4,860.7 billion yen worth of the total, up 8.1 percent.

Projects financed by autonomies and other local agencies accounted for the remaining 14,897.8 billion yen worth, a 7.7 percent increase.

Both figures are the highest on record.

The ministry also said public works investments during March soared 67.8 percent from a year earlier to 2,353.5 billion yen.

Nuclear Reactor Tubes Reportedly Clogged With Rust

OW1705003894 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 13 May 94

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] Three years ago a tube clogged with rust broke in the No. 2 reactor of the Kansai Power Electric Company's Mihama nuclear power plant. An inhouse company report has found out that similar problems have occurred at six other nuclear plants.

In the incident three years ago, one of the tubes in a steam generator at the Mihama No. 2 reactor broke and leaked a large amount of primary cooling water, used to cool fuel in the reactor. Investigators later found one of the tubes had broken because an antivibration bar had not been properly installed. They said that foreign objects, including rust, had accumulated in a small gap between a tube and the bar, which supported the tubes. The tube eventually became fixed and could not withstand vibration.

NHK, which obtained a copy of the Kansai Electric Power Company's inhouse report, says after the accident investigators took samples from tubes at nine other pressurized water reactors, which are similar to the Mihama No. 2 reactor. They confirmed the tubes had become fixed because a gap between the tube and a bar in six of the reactors had become clogged. The report says that each of the 30 to 40 tubes that were checked at the Mihama No. 3 reactor and the No. 2 Ohi reactor, which are still in operation, were clogged with rust and dust and completely fixed.

Kansai Electric officials say that even though the tubes were clogged with dust, they would not break like the one at the Mihama No. 2 reactor unless it was triggered by an accident. They say they intend to replace the steam generators, together with the tubes, over the next four years. Antinuclear groups, however, including citizens' group, say that the reactors should be closed down immediately.

Toshiba Develops Improved Rewritable Optical Disk

OW1605024594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0135 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. said Monday [16 May] it has developed an innovative high capacity 3.5-inch optical disk system that has a partial rewrite capability.

Data can be entered on the new optical disk using a modified phase-change process, allowing it to be either partially or totally deleted by overwriting, Toshiba said.

In phase-change optical disk drives, the reading and writing of data is achieved by converting the recording layer of the disk from an amorphous to a crystalline state and vice versa, using the heat emitted by a laser diode.

Toshiba said the system represents a dramatic improvement over conventional rewritable magneto-optical disk systems, in which stored data cannot be changed without first erasing the whole section on which amended data is to be entered.

The new optical disk will be suitable for application in a wide range of next-generation multimedia products that run on personal computers, Toshiba said.

North Korea

Three IAEA Inspectors Arrive in Pyongyang

SK1705151594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—A group of three inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] arrived here by air today upon agreement between the DPRK and the IAEA.

Their inspection is expected to last approximately a week.

U.S. Officials' Remarks on Forces in South Decried

SK1705052894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 17 May 94

["Dangerous Anti-DPRK Outbursts of U.S. Warmaniacs"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—The U.S. defense secretary, Perry, said recently that the United States was examining steps to shorten the time needed for the preparation of the dispatch of U.S. aircraft carriers to the Korean peninsula and increase the stockpile of ammunition of the U.S. Forces stationed in South Korea and Japan, reported THE WASHINGTON POST May 12.

Perry and other U.S. brasshats cried that "a war must be imagined", threatening "sanctions" against the DPRK, the paper said.

On the 14th of May, Woolsey, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, at a meeting held in Boston openly argued that the U.S. intelligence agents should be "infiltrated" into the DPRK "in the disguise of forwarding agents or seamen" over the "nuclear issue".

U.S. President Clinton in his recent interview with the U.S. CNN TV, taking issue with the fictitious "nuclear issue" of the DPRK, declared that "a decisive stand" would be taken in the U.S.- led international moves for a solution to it.

These facts prove that the United States is bringing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war, invariably pursuing the policy of stifling the DPRK.

Talk Claims U.S. Forces in Japan Have Aggressive Aim

SK1705040894 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1620 GMT 15 May 94

[Unattributed talk: "The Aggressor Forces Aimed at Asian Countries"]

[Text] While the United States is intensifying its strong-arm politics against our Republic under the pretext of the nuclear issue, the U.S. Forces in Japan are making dangerous moves. The U.S. Forces' military exercises are frequently conducted in various places in Japan, and the aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines are frequently calling at Japanese ports. This shows that the U.S. bellicose circles continue to pursue their Korean and Asian policy from a force-oriented position [himui ipchangeso].

It is the invariable U.S. policy to maintain and intensify the domination over the Asia-Pacific region. This U.S. policy is becoming more conspicuous today when the power balance is broken in the international arena. The United States is particularly nervous about the Western powers taking increasing interest in this region in recent years with the economic development of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and with the strategic importance and significance of this region brought to the fore. This is leading the United States to head in the direction of further strengthening its influence and power sphere over the Asia-Pacific region. Here the U.S. ruling circles give great significance to the force-oriented policy [himui chongchaek]. A typical example of this is the present U.S. scheme to continuously maintain and strengthen the U.S. Forces and their bases in Japan under the pretext of our nuclear issue.

The U.S. and Japanese reactionaries are claiming that the maintenance and strengthening of the U.S. Forces in Japan is aimed at strengthening the Japan-U.S. security. But this is a lie, and a deception and mockery at the peace-loving people of Asia and the world.

It is not hard to know this from the composition and the particulars of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan. The U.S. Armed Forces in Japan are the mobile strike forces of an offensive type composed of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. They have all the arms and equipment—from tactical to strategic weapons—enabling them to carry out operations in any region of Asia, and their function is to carry out the role of a shock brigade for the aggressive U.S. Asian strategy.

The U.S. Forces and their bases in Japan participate, without exception, in the war exercises conducted in the Asia-Pacific region, and are used as supply and launching bases for war exercises. Here they are strengthening the operational and commanding system among the U.S., Japanese, and South Korean forces and accelerating the preparations for overseas aggression. This shows that the U.S. Forces in Japan are not for the Japan-U.S. security but they are aggressor forces aimed at the Asia-Pacific region using Japan and South Korea as a stepping stone.

The U.S. Armed Forces in Japan are the nuclear forces aimed at maintaining nuclear superiority in the Asia-Pacific region and attacking other countries. Not to be overlooked is the fact that the operational focus of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan is directed at our country. The U.S. imperialists, who overturned [twijibo opun] the DPRK-U.S. talks, are busily moving the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan, babbling about coping with our nuclear development. The U.S. Armed Forces in Japan aimed at our country are prepared to be put into war at any time.

The U.S. ruling circles are advertising, brazen-facedly, that the U.S. Forces in Japan are a so-called war-deterrent. This is nothing but a sophistry. The U.S. Forces and their bases in Japan are the source of misfortune that threatens the sovereignty, independence, peace, and security of our country and other countries in Asia.

The United States should immediately withdraw its Armed Forces in conformity with today's environment in which the Cold War ended, and clearly know that the force-oriented policy is far from an omnipotent prescription.

Daily Denounces ROK's 'Joint Tactical Exercise'

SK1505000994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1225 GMT 13 May 94

[NODONG SINMUN 13 May commentary: "Dangerous Game of Fire Aimed at Launching Attacks for Northward Invasion"]

[Text] Under the code name of joint tactical exercise for the first half of this year, the South Korean puppets started a joint military exercise of the puppet Army, Navy, and Air Force on 9 May. This game of fire, which reportedly will continue until 14 May, is being played more frantically as time goes by.

This war exercise includes an exercise for combat preparations, an exercise for chemical, biological, and radiological warfare, an exercise for transportation of troops and equipment, and an emergency take-off and landing exercise, all of which are aimed at launching attacks against us. This exercise is being conducted more frantically in the northern part of Kyonggi Province, close to the Military Demarcation Line.

On 9 May the puppets mobilized a large-scale (?flotilla) composed of various warships and conducted provocative war exercises, such as a maritime mobile exercise, while babbling about a need to get ready to take a countermeasure at the initial stage of war. The warmongers also conducted a joint airborne jump exercise and a joint field exercise with the U.S. Forces on the East Sea of Korea [as heard].

All these facts show that the war exercise which the United States and the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique started this time is a dangerous game of fire aimed at attacking us in three-dimensional operations in the air and on land and sea.

As usual, the puppets propagandized that they started this war exercise to get ready for someone else's surprise attacks and infiltrations. This is a mere sophism aimed at concealing their bellicose colors as those who deliberately aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula and rush to confrontation and war.

As is well known, we hope that the problem of peace in the country and its peaceful reunification will be solved through dialogue and negotiations and are constantly making efforts toward that end. To hasten the country's reunification, we made public the 10-point program of the great unity of the entire nation and, recently, advanced a proposal for convening a national meeting. Moreover, under a tense situation in which the danger of new war is ever growing on the Korean peninsula, we advanced a momentous proposal on turning the Armistice into a stable peace and is making efforts to implement this proposal. It is clear even to a very small child that our efforts for peace and reunification are not intended for surprise attacks or infiltrations. It is the U.S. imperialists and South Korean warmongers who pursue surprise attacks and infiltrations on the Korean peninsula.

As disclosed, the South Korean puppets have already mapped out new Operation Plan 5027, a plan to provoke a war of northward invasion with the United States. The United States is concentrating massive aggression forces on South Korea and its vicinity to inflict a nuclear catastrophe on our nation. It also has deployed Patriot missiles and attack helicopters in South Korea. The U.S. warmongers unhesitatingly make powder-reeking remarks that they would not hesitate to wage a war or refrain from launching preemptive strikes. U.S. Defense Secretary Perry, a ringleader of war [chonjaeng tumok], sneaked into South Korea and had a war confab.

In the tactical exercise, the puppets moved massive troops and equipment close to the Military Demarcation Line and played a game of fire in the air and on land and sea. Needless to say, in so doing, they aim to complete their readiness to launch attacks for northward aggression according to the U.S. imperialists' policy of war.

The United States and the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique must know that their dangerous game of fire, which leads the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war, will never bring good results to them. The South Korean people will never forgive the warmongers who pursue fratricidal conflicts [tongjok sangjan].

U.S. Academic on Withdrawal of Weapons From ROK

SK1405215994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—American professor of Chicago University Bruce Cumings said at an academic seminar on the theme of "nuclear war crisis in Asia" that the United States should strive to pull nuclear weapons out of South Korea with the responsibility for its introduction according to NEW KOREA TIMES, a paper of overseas Koreans.

It is, he said, for a political purpose to keep up the cold war in the Korean peninsula that the United States is putting pressure on North Korea while keeping itself from making an official utterance on the introduction of nuclear weapons in South Korea.

Criticising the one-sided press attitude of the American media gossiping about "nuclear suspicion" in North Korea, the professor said that for the elimination of nuclear arms in the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification, it is preferential to have a correct understanding of the starting of the June 25 war, the U.S.-South Korean military tieup, the South Korean authorities' attitude towards the North, etc.

It is proper for the United States to solve the "nuclear issue" by means of dialogue with North Korea, not by military means, he stressed.

Kim Yong-sun Meets American Committee on Korea

SK1605230794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on May 16 met and had a conversation with a delegation of the American Committee on Korea led by its executive director John M. Swomley.

The head of the delegation said he was deeply moved by achievements made in Korea in political, economic, cultural and other domains.

Pointing to distorted propaganda continued in the United States on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he said he could witness with his own eyes the Korean People's Army participating in the construction with shovels and helping farmers in their work in countryside, not preparing a war.

He said he saw peaceful and happy Korean people's looks through Korean visit.

50,000 at ROK Rallies on Kwangju Anniversary

SK1705145694 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1253 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the 18 May Kwangju resistance struggle, about 50,000 people, including members of opposition circles and college students, held rallies and demonstration struggle throughout South Korea.

According to broadcasts from Seoul, today, on the eve of the 14th anniversary of the 18 May Kwangju resistance struggle, about 50,000 people, including members of opposition organizations and college students throughout South Korea, held rallies and staged demonstrations demanding to know the truth about the Kwangju resistance struggle and the punishment of responsible figures.

The National Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification held a national meeting with participation of 2,000 of its members and students in Chongmyo Park in Seoul at 1600 today.

The participants in the meeting strongly demanded that the truth about the Kwangju incident, which is still concealed behind the curtain, be revealed and those responsible for oppression be punished.

The students of 13 universities in Seoul, including Yonsei University and Chungang University, rose in the struggle. About 700 students from the Korea Federation of University Student Councils held a rally in Yonsei University, and dashed toward Yonhui-tong, where the houses of traitors No Tae-u and Chon Tu-hwan are located, and staged demonstrations.

About 600 college students from the Seoul Area Federation of University Student Councils gathered at Yonsei University and demanded to know the truth about the Kwangju democratization movement and the punishment of those responsible for repression. They then staged street demonstrations advancing toward the homes of traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, the ringleaders of the Kwangju massacre.

On the other hand, the puppet authorities deployed about 12,000 police forces around their homes and placed them under the posture for repression.

The number of students who rose in the struggle throughout South Korea, including Seoul, reached more than 10,000 from 44 universities. They held events marking the Kwangju resistance struggle in their universities respectively.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the 14th anniversary of the 18 May Kwangju democratization resistance struggle, events paying tribute to Kwangju martyrs were held in Kwangju. About 10,000 Kwangju citizens and students gathered at the plaza in front of the building in South Cholla Province, and recalled days of the resistance struggle by singing the "Song of May."

At 1500 that afternoon, 300 students from Chonnam University and Choson University staged an on-street drama, reproducing the repression by the martial law troops in May 1980 and the resistance struggle of citizens. An international seminar on the Kwangju mass democratization resistance struggle viewed overseas was held at 1400 with the participation of figures from four foreign countries, including Japan and Thailand.

A rally for the resolution of Pusan citizens to probe the truth about the Kwangju resistance struggle was held at 1430 that afternoon with the participation of about 200 students and citizens.

Since a broad range of students and people rose in the struggle throughout South Korea, the Kim Yong-sam group mobilized enormous police forces and placed them under the posture of alertness, thus creating a terrorism-ridden atmosphere.

Daily Calls for Punishment of Kwangju 'Culprits'

SK1505091694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0847 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—If the South Korean people want to punish the chief culprits in the Kwangju bloodbath, they must overthrow the "civilian regime" of the traitor Kim Yong-sam, too, urges NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The analyst says:

On the threshold of the 14th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising, the federation of the May 18 Kwangju popular resistance of South Korea came out with the demand for the punishment of the traitor Chon Tu-hwan and other chief culprits of the Kwangju massacre.

The Kwangju bloodbath which was unprecedented in barbarity, atrocity and ferocity, left in the hearts of the people unquenchable grievances. But the demand of the people for a probe into the truth of the incident and the punishment of the chief murderers has not yet been met.

No Tae-u the puppet, the dictator of the "Sixth Republic," had "committed" himself to the solution of this problem before he took office. But, he himself being a mastermind of the Kwangju massacre, he hushed it up.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam who made "a fair solution of the Kwangju problem" one of his "commitments" when taking power, connived at and defended the criminals and bloodily cracked down on the massive struggle of students and people demanding a probe into the truth and punishment of the chief murderers by letting loose hundreds of thousands of police.

Kim Yong-sam the traitor says quite often that he was "a victim of the military dictatorship." But he is a turncoat and political prostitute who made a strategic marriage with the military dictatorial forces and clawed his way to power with their backing.

The punishment of the chief culprits in the Kwangju massacre is impossible with the Kim Yong-sam group, the "civilian fascists" defending the Kwangju murderers, left alone.

Students Demand Investigation of Kwangju Incident

SK1505091394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—Some 800 students affiliated with the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) held a rally at Hanyang campus on May 14 demanding the investigation into the Kwangju massacre and the punishment of those responsible for it, a Seoul-based radio reported.

Noting that the truth behind the massacre has not yet been made clear, the ralliers strongly demanded the punishment of those responsible for it including two former "presidents," Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u.

After the rally, they went out of the campus demanding the "government"-level investigation and the punishment of the culprits.

Buddhists Urge ROK To Scrap Heavy Water Reactor

SK1505084894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0808 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—Pak Tae-ho, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhists Federation [KBF], released a statement on May 14 urging the South Korean puppets to scrap the pressurized heavy water reactor (PHWR) and the multi-purpose research reactor, stop the development of a fast breeder reactor and promptly give up the nuclear arms development.

He said the PHWR in Wolsong which the South Korean puppets claim to be a "commercial" reactor and the multi-purpose research reactor in the Taedok complex which they call a "research" reactor were designed to develop nuclear weapons.

"The Buddhists, who consider killing as the blackest crime against mankind and peace as the greatest charity, will never tolerate their nuclear arms development for plunging the nation into a nuclear disaster," he declared.

"The KBF Central Committee calls on the Korean Buddhists in the South and overseas to actively join in the struggle for checking the South Korean puppets' nuclear arms development and getting the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea, thus fully discharging the mission and duty of Buddhists, who consider avoiding sin of killing any living creature most important in the Buddhist commandments. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Japan 'Concealment' of Nuclear Armament Decried

SK1705052194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today says the recently exposed concealment of pure plutonium enough for the manufacture of nine nuclear bombs in Japan shows its shamelessness and craftiness.

The analysis says:

It was for the purpose of veiling its nuclear arms development that Japan spread the rumor that North Korea had manufactured nuclear weapons, crying for international pressure and sanctions against it.

The reality clearly indicates that the nuclear threat does not comes to Japan from the DPRK but comes to the latter from the former, assuming a very serious nature.

With Japan accelerating nuclear armament, the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula would be meaningless and the joint declaration on denuclearization signed between the North and the South of Korea would be a dead duck.

Japan's concealment of plutonium was disclosed for the first time.

It was from several dozen years ago that Japan put its first nuclear facilities into operation. Nobody knows how much plutonium Japan has systematically concealed in this period.

The Japanese authorities have vaunted that Japan was "a model" in accepting inspections of the International Atomic Energy Agency, claiming that the inspection of the DPRK was "insufficient" and it must accept "an additional inspection."

This was a crafty trick to dull the strictness of the agency's inspection of Japan and make it to keep a sharp watch on the DPRK so that the plutonium concealed by Japan systematically might not be uncovered.

The more desperately Japan provokes the DPRK the more fully the latter's transparency will be proved and the clearer Japan's sinister, shameless intention be revealed.

Daily: Japan Obliged To Ensure Rights of Chongnyon

SK1405110694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The Japanese authorities are under the legal obligations to fully ensure the activities of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and the democratic national rights of Koreans in Japan, stresses NODONG SINMUN today.

A by-lined article of the paper says:

It is a principled requirement of international law and usage that overseas citizens of a sovereign state lead a free life, enjoying legal protection and treatment as foreigners under the protection of their motherland, wherever they may reside.

The Japanese authorities must provide the Koreans in Japan with all lawful rights and treatment as foreigners and fully ensure their human rights in accordance with the publicly accepted principles of international law and usage.

The Japanese authorities are also under historical and moral obligations to fully ensure the activities of Chongnyon and the democratic national rights of Koreans in Japan.

They must properly repent of and apologize for the crimes committed by Japanese imperialism against history and they must know that they are under the heavy obligation to ensure the democratic national rights of Koreans in Japan in order to atone for the crimes.

The Japanese authorities must provide them with all rights including the right to learn, work and lead a dignified life and the freedom of political activity, speech, the press, association, assembly and demonstration in Japan.

The Japanese authorities must fully guarantee the human rights of Koreans in Japan to respect at least the basic spirit of the world declaration on human rights and the international statutes of human rights they signed and to abide by the "principle of equality between natives and foreigners" to which they are committed.

We who regard the dignity of the country and the nation as our life and soul will sternly counter any persecution and repression of Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan, considering them to be an infringement on the dignity and sovereignty of the DPRK.

The Japanese authorities must immediately stop and apologize for their hostile policy toward the DPRK and the anti-Chongnyon campaign, mindful of grave consequences arising from their reckless action, and must take responsible measures lest repression of Chongnyon and violations of human rights of Koreans in Japan should recur.

Japan's 'Suppression' of Chongnyon Decried

SK1605115194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 13 (KNS-KCNA)—A forum on human rights of Koreans in Japan sent a message on May 12 to the prime minister, the chairman of the state security committee, the director of the police agency and the chief of the Osaka prefectural police headquarters of Japan protesting the unprecedented outrages of the Japanese police authorities against the Osaka prefectural headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and its branches.

The forum in the message denounced the forcible search by the Osaka prefectural police on the Osaka prefectural headquarters of Chongnyon and its branches as a wanton encroachment on the freedom and human rights of Koreans in Japan.

The message strongly demanded an immediate stop to the political suppression, watch and violation of human rights of the Chongnyon organisations and Koreans in Japan.

Chongnyon Proposes Unity to Mindan Compatriots

SK1505091294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0836 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) sent an appeal to the compatriots affiliated with the "ROK Residents Association in Japan" (Mindan) on May 12, urging it to promote national unity for defense of national dignity and vital rights of the Koreans in Japan.

Noting that the persecution and suppression of Koreans in Japan and Chongnyon organisations by the Japanese reactionaries today are by no means confined to Chongnyon, the appeal says:

Militarism does not distinguish between Chongnyon and "Mindan" and between the North and the South of Korea. We cannot and must not allow the past history of humiliation and shame to be repeated, falling a prey to the malicious scheme of the Japanese militarist forces to sow discord within our nation.

There is only one way for the Korean nationals in Japan to survive, defending national dignity and rights—a close unity of the nation.

We are sending this appeal to you, loudly asserting that it is high time all the Koreans in Japan closely united, sharply watching the heinous militarist ambition of the Japanese reactionary forces against Korea and their possible nation alienating maneuvers.

Let us all unite as fellow countrymen, irrespective of isms and views and affiliation, defend the dignity of the nation and the vital rights of the compatriots in Japan and guarantee the future of our dear younger generations.

Let us achieve national reunification in the 1990s without fail by uniting as fellow countrymen of the same ancestry, priding ourselves on our long history spanning 50 centuries.

'National Persecution' by Japanese Denounced

SK1605104794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 (KNS-KCNA)—A Kinki District meeting of Koreans in Japan was held in Osaka on May 13 to denounce the suppression of the Osaka organisation of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and national persecution by the Japanese authorities.

Addressing the meeting, vice chairman of Chongnyon O Hyong-chin said that the recent outrage is part of the anti-DPRK campaign of the U.S., Japanese and South Korean reactionaries over the fictitious "nuclear suspicion" against the North and an attempt to destroy the patriotic activities of Chongnyon.

"It cannot be overlooked that the Japanese reactionaries, far from repenting of their past Asian aggression, are trying to turn Japan back to the road of militarism and purposefully inciting among the Japanese people national chauvinism and ill feelings against the Koreans in Japan," he said.

He strongly demanded that the Japanese police immediately stop unreasonable political suppression of Chongnyon and apologize for it.

At the meeting Japanese guests made speeches of solidarity and participants delivered indignation speeches.

A letter of protest was adopted and a protest group was formed to hand it to the Osaka prefectural police headquarters and the Higashi police station.

After the meeting the participants staged a powerful street demonstration.

Chongukyonhap Urges Japan To Give Up Militarism

SK1505084794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0804 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—The National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification (Chongukyonhap) of South Korea released a statement concerning the recent discovery of 70 kilograms of unregistered plutonium at a nuclear fuel factory of Japan, the Seoul-based MBC (Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation) reported on May 13.

The statement urged Japan to promptly give up the moves to revive militarism.

Chongukyonhap criticized the South Korean authorities' humiliating dependence on Japan and urged them to take a tough attitude toward it.

Group Denounces ROK Opposition to National Forum

SK1505090194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—Kim Chong-su, chairman of the Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification, published a statement Wednesday, in which he branded the criminal acts of the South Korean authorities in opposing the proposed convocation of national conference and rushing headlong towards war against the fellow countrymen as a challenge to the entire nation desirous of reconciliation, unity and reunification and a full disclosure of their color as flunkeyist traitors seeking only confrontation and division and war against the North.

"If the South Korean authorities have the intention to achieve peaceful reunification," he said, "they must no more do acts upsetting the expectation of the entire fellow countrymen for a convocation of national conference."

"They must also stop at once the criminal war moves intended to annihilate the fellow countrymen in league with outside forces", he demanded.

Radio Society Urges Improved Ties With Japan

SK1305225894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 13 (KCNA)—A statement demanding early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations was adopted at an inaugural meeting of the National Interchange Society of Listeners to Radio Pyongyang, which was held in Osaka on April 17.

The statement demanded that the Japanese Government rectify the external policy, with which it, following the U.S. Korea policy, has been hostile to the DPRK and joined in freezing the division of the Korean peninsula.

For Japan to normalize diplomatic relations with the DPRK is to put an end to the past hostile relations and make a true international contribution, the statement said, and stressed:

The Japanese Government should normalize Japan-Korea diplomatic relations, not clamouring for "sanctions" against the DPRK.

The statement urged the Japanese Government to respect the spirit of the joint declaration published by the Liberal Democratic Party and Social Democratic Party of Japan and the Workers' Party of Korea on September 28, 1990, and propel negotiations for the normalization of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations in this spirit.

"The members of the National Interchange Society of Listeners to Radio Pyongyang will conduct a more energetic movement to realize negotiations for the normalization of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations," it declared.

Japanese Friendship Groups Urge Detente

SK1605230494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—Friendship organisations of Japan called for a detente on the Korean peninsula.

The Kochi prefectural council for the promotion of Japan-Korea friendship in a statement April 11 said tensions will increase and the danger of war will not disappear in the world as long as the United States continues to seek "domination of the world by strength". It demanded an immediate halt to the clamor for "sanctions" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The statement urged that the United States should discontinue the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises for good, withdraw its forces from South Korea and sign a peace agreement with the DPRK through talks with it.

Speaking at the sixth Kennan, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan-Korea friendship district meeting held on April 24, the chairman of the Kennan district liaison council for Japan-Korea solidarity, Tamaru Kawaguchi, said the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula must be settled through DPRK-U.S. talks.

A letter of request to the Japanese Government was adopted at the meeting.

PRC Party School, Koreans in Japan Groups Arrive

SK1305225694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 13 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by its Vice-President Liu Shongwu and a delegation of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China led by Deputy Chief Procurator Liang Guoqing arrived here today.

Home-visiting groups of Korean students in Japan and the 212th short-term home-visiting group of Koreans in Japan arrived in Wonsan today by the ship "Mangyongbong-92" for a visit to the socialist homeland.

University Delegation Returns From China

SK1605033994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] A delegation of Kumsong University of Politics led by its Dean Son Ki-hak returned home by train on 12 May after winding up its visit to China. The delegation was greeted at Pyongyang Station by Cho Kyong-ho, vice dean of the university.

Youth Delegations Depart for Bulgaria, China

SK1605230694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—A delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea headed by vice chairman of its Central Committee Choe Hyon-tok to participate in an enlarged meeting of the coordination council of the World Federation of Democratic Youth to be held in Bulgaria and a delegation of the Korean Students Committee to visit China left Pyongyang today.

Koreans in Russia Denounce Taking Comrades to ROK

SK1305225794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 13 (KCNA)—Korean residents in Russia published statements denouncing the South Korean authorities' scheme to drag compatriots in Sakhalin, Russia, into South Korea through conspiracy and tieup with the Japanese Government.

The chief of the Organization of Korean Nationals in Sakhalin, Chae Chong-man, said Koreans' immigration into Sakhalin from their dear homeland was caused by the Japanese imperialists' criminal act of aggression in the past, so it is a political issue under any circumstances, not a pure "humanitarian" issue as the South Korean puppet authorities allege, nor a matter to be settled with some money.

"The South Korean puppet authorities' scheme to forcibly take compatriots in Sakhalin to South Korea is aimed at fomenting discord and consciousness of confrontation within the Korean nation and perpetuating the division of the country," he contended.

The chairman of the Sakhalin Regional Committee of Koreans for Support to Peaceful Reunification, Kwon Chon-sik, warned that if the South Korean authorities persist in their plot to drag away compatriots through tieup with the Japanese authorities, they would be held entirely responsible for the consequences arising therefrom.

The chief of the Organization of Korean Nationals in Russia, Choe Yong-su, said Korean residents in Russia would make every possible effort for a peaceful reunification of the country and national unity and fight against the South Korean authorities' anti-popular policy and for peace on the Korean peninsula.

Reunification Symposium Held in Moscow 14 May

SK1405110494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Moscow, May 12 (KCNA)—A scientific symposium on the reunification of Korea was held here today.

Speeches were made on the subjects of "formation of 'two Koreas'", "present status of the Korean question and prospect of its settlement" and so on.

The speakers pointed out that the division of Korea, a product of the "cold war", was caused by the moves of big powers, the United States in particular.

They said that President Kim Il-song called a joint conference of political parties and public organizations in the North and the South of Korea to prevent the division of the country, initiated building a democratic unified state and later put forward the three principles of national reunification, the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo and 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, thus opening a bright vista for the reunification of the country.

They noted that the proposal for reunification through confederacy and the 10-point programme, advanced by President Kim Il-song, are a reunification proposal acceptable to everybody because they reflect the will common to the nation, and the proposal and the programme are positively supported by the world's people as well as the Korean people.

Referring to the prospect of Korea's reunification, the speakers said Korea should be reunified by the Korean people themselves without outside interference.

They held that Korea must become one unified state.

Kim In-so Repatriation Committee Formed in Russia

SK1405101994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The committee for the promotion of the repatriation of Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, who are kept in South Korea after being subjected to a long prison life for refusing to be converted, was formed in Moscow on May 5.

Golyakov, first vice-chairman of the coordinating committee of Veterans of the Commonwealth of Independent States, was elected its chairman.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Palestinian President

SK1405112394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on May 14 sent a message of solidarity to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), on the occasion of the "week of support to the Palestinian people's struggle".

President Kim Il-song said the Palestinian people are now vigorously struggling to put an end to Israeli occupation and restore their lawful national rights and it is fully supported by the progressive people of the world.

Wishing the Palestinian president and people success in the work for a political solution to the Palestinian issue and promotion of the Mideast peace process, he expressed the belief that the friendship and unity and bonds of solidarity between the peoples of Korea and Palestine will steadily grow stronger and develop.

Week of Support for Palestinian People Marked

SK1505091494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0841 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry articles upon the beginning of "the week of support to the struggle of the Palestinian people."

Stating that various forms of activities supporting the just cause of the Palestinian people and expressing solidarity with it will take place in Korea during the week, NODONG SINMUN says:

The Korean people have consistently supported the Palestinian people's struggle for retaking the lost territories and restoring their legitimate national rights.

The agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho signed between Palestine and Israel on May 4 was a fruition of the Palestinian people's patient efforts.

If the Palestinian issue is to be finally resolved, Israel must completely withdraw from the occupied lands. The master of the Palestinian issue is the Palestinian people themselves. The Korean people hope that the agreement will serve as a foundation for the founding of an independent state.

MINJU CHOSON declares that the Korean people will as ever fully support the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Lao Defense Ministry Sends Gift to Kim Il-song

SK1405112694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from a high-level delegation of the Ministry of National Defence of Laos on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang by member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and Minister of National Defence Sai-ngason Choummali.

Sends Gift to Kim Chong-il

SK1405112794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, received a gift from a high-level delegation of the Ministry of National Defence of Laos on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang by member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and Minister of National Defence Sai-ngason Choummali.

Lao Delegation Departs Pyongyang

SK1405112994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—A high-level delegation of the Ministry of National Defence of Laos headed by Sai-ngason Choummali, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and minister of national defence, left Pyongyang today, wrapping up its six-day visit to Korea.

It was seen off at the airport by Politburo member of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea and Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Choe Kwang, Vice-Marshal Kim Kwang-chin, and generals and officers of the KPA.

A farewell function for the delegation took place at the airport.

While staying in Korea, the delegation paid visits to Mangyongdae, the Tower of Chuche Idea, the Grand People's Study House, KPA units, the victorious fatherland liberation war museum and other places.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to King of Norway

SK1605115794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on May 16 sent a message of greetings to Harald V, King of Norway, on the national day of his country.

The message wished prosperity to Norway and health and happiness to the king.

Indian Delegation Delivers Gift for Kim Il-song

SK1405113894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from a delegation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Hwang Chang-yop by Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Prime Minister of West Bengal State Jyoti Basu.

Delivers Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK1405114094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from a delegation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Hwang Chang-yop by Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Prime Minister of West Bengal State Jyoti Basu.

Special Envoy's Visit to South Africa Detailed

SK1605034494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports by Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean between 12 and 14 May summing up the visit of Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, to South Africa to attend the presidential inauguration ceremony.

At 1300 GMT on 12 May, the radio reports that Yang Hyong-sop "on 9 and 10 May met with South African President Nelson Mandela; its former President De Klerk; Fidel Castro, president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Senegalese President Abdou Diouf; Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos; Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni; Botswana President Ketumile Masire; Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat; Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe; Ethiopian interim government President Meles Zenawi; Tanzanian President Ali Hassyan Mwinyi; Seychelles President France Albert

Rene; Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano; Namibian President Sam Nujoma; Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo; Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto; and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali."

Then the radio reports that Yang Hyong-sop met with "the vice presidents and foreign ministers of various countries, including the United States, Afghanistan, Bolivia, Indonesia, and Suriname."

At 1300 GMT on 14 May, the radio reports on the departure of Yang Hyong-sop from Johannesburg on 12 May. It says he was seen off at the airport by members of the presidential inauguration ceremony organizing committee.

Zimbabwean President Sends Gift to Kim Il-song

SK1405111394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a gift from Robert G. Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The gift was handed to Choe Kwang, chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, by Dumiso Dabengwa, minister of home affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe, visiting Korea.

Sends Gift to Kim Chong-il

SK1405111594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Robert G. Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The gift was handed to Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, by Dumiso Dabengwa, minister of home affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe, visiting Korea.

Zimbabwe Delegation Departs

SK1405113794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The government delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe led by Minister of Home Affairs Dumiso Dabengwa left here today after a five-day visit to Korea.

During its stay the delegation visited Mangyongdae, and saw the Tower of the Chuche Idea, the Arch of Triumph, the West Sea barrage, the victorious fatherland liberation war museum, the Kang Kon Military Academy and other places.

Korean, Tanzanian Youth Groups Issue Statement

SK1505091094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—The League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] and the Tanzanian Youth Union [TYU] released a joint statement here on May 13.

According to the statement, officials of the Central Committee of the LSWYK and the members of the visiting delegation of the TYU led by General Secretary Sukuwa S. Sukuwa exchanged views on a series of matters.

The statement says:

The sides informed each other of their organizations' activities and exchanged views on the development of friendly relations between the two youth organizations, the current international situation and the development of the world youth and student movement.

The LSWYK noted with appreciation that the TYU has played an important role and conducted brisk activities to build a new independent society and consolidate the unity of the nation and the country under the leadership of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania, maintaining the line of socialism and self-reliance.

The TYU highly estimated the fact that the LSWYK, united in one mind around the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, has successfully discharged its mission and role in the struggle for defending the Workers' Party of Korea and confidently safeguarding and advancing the cause of socialism in the hard time when the imperialists continue anti-socialist, anti-DPRK moves.

The TYU bitterly denounced the United States and its satellites for deploying Patriot missiles in South Korea and rendering the situation of the Korean peninsula extremely strained, while threatening sanctions against the DPRK through the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations under the pretext of "the nuclear issue," and urged them to promptly stop such moves.

The sides emphasized the need to support and closely cooperate with each other in the common struggle for the development of the world youth movement for solidarity against imperialism and for peace and friendship and the cause of socialism.

Messages, Letters to Kim Il-song Adopted Abroad

SK1505085694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0816 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received congratulatory messages from the participants in celebration meetings which were held in Tulubolo and Western Shoa region, Ethiopia, in Damascus, Syria and by the Chittagong Branch of the Bangladesh-Korea Friendship Association, on his birthday.

The messages say President Kim Il-song enjoys deep respect from the world's peaceloving and democratic forces for having devoted his all to the happiness of the people and victory of the Korean revolution.

Noting that the chuche idea founded by President Kim Il-song is the one and only just ideological weapon for the working peoples of the world to free themselves from exploitation and oppression by imperialism, they express the resolution to deepen the study of it.

They also express firm solidarity with the Korean people in the struggle for the peaceful reunification of the country and building of socialism, saying "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" worked out by President Kim Il-song is the most constructive programme which helps realise the reunification of Korea in a peaceful way.

The messages wish President Kim Il-song a long life in good health.

Meanwhile, letters to President Kim Il-song were adopted at the Guinean national seminar on his famous work "For the ultimate solution of the rural question under the banner of the socialist rural theses" and at friendly gatherings with Korean visitors in Katmandu, Nepal.

Kim Il-song Answers Foreign Birthday Greetings

SK1405062594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent messages to foreign state leaders in reply to their messages of greetings on his birthday.

The reply messages were sent to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; Elias Hrawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon; Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen; Hussein the first, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, and Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; President Sardar Farooq Ahmed Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia; Jerry John Rawlings, president of the Republic of Ghana; Lansana Conte, president of the Republic of Guinea; Sani Abacha, head of State and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Hassan the second, king of Morocco; Alpha Oumar Konare, president and head of state of the Republic of Mali; Blaise Compaore, president, head of state and president of the Council of Ministers of Burkina Faso; Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front; 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, president of the Republic of the Sudan; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president and head of state of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea; Ange Patasse, president of the Central African Republic; Ali Hassan Mwinyi, president of the United Republic of Tanzania; Henri Konan Bedie, president of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire; Gnassingbe Eyadema, president of the Republic of Togo; Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia; Meles Zenawi, president of the Ethiopian Transitional Government and chairman of the Council of Representatives; Zoran Lilic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Cheddi Jagan, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua; Mary Eugenia Charles, prime minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica; Erskine Sandiford, prime minister of Barbados; Manuel Esquivel, prime minister of Belize; P.J. Patterson, prime minister of Jamaica; John George Melvin Compton, prime minister of St. Lucia; Lester Bryant Bird, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda; and Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, president of the Republic of Malta.

President Kim Il-song also replied to Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Royal Government, and Chea Sim, president of the National Assembly, of Cambodia.

President Kim Il-song in the messages expressed the conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and their countries would continue to strengthen and develop, and wished them success in their work for the prosperity of their countries.

Kim Il-song's Works Carried by Foreign Papers

SK1605050594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song's famous work "Answers to the Questions Raised by the U.S. CNN News Coverage Group" was reported by the Maltese paper L'ORIZZONT, the Russian paper VECHERNAYA MOSKVA and the Hungarian paper SZABADSAG.

The Maltese and Russian papers printed portraits of President Kim Il-song.

The work "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" was carried by the Nicaraguan paper AVANCE, and the work "On Further Developing the Communist Policy" by the Mongolian paper UNEN.

Signature Campaign for Solidarity Launched

SK1405104194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—An international signature campaign and other extensive activities for solidarity with the Korean people have been launched upon the lapse of one year since the great leader President Kim Il-song published "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country."

More than 360 million people including heads of party, state and government and other political and public figures of India, Nepal, Syria, Egypt, Guinea, France, Austria, Peru, Nicaragua and many other countries and international and regional organizations signed the signature paper supporting the 10-point programme in April. And various forms of solidarity functions such as meeting, seminar and lecture were held and statements and appeals were issued.

The International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace in Korea (Cilreco) published an appeal and a signature paper on the first anniversary of the publication of the 10-point programme.

The appeal said the 10-point programme put forward by President Kim Il-song is a great programme for Korean reunification indicating a way for the Korean people to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo independently and called for an international signature campaign supporting it in all countries.

In response to the appeal, political parties and organizations of Ghana, Mali, Russia, the Czech Republic and many other countries formed committees for sponsoring and promoting the signature campaign supporting the 10-point programme.

The signature campaign is going on worldwide.

Anniversary of Korea-Nepal Relations Marked

SK1505090994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Nepal (May 15, 1974).

NODONG SINMUN says that over the past two decades, the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples have developed favourably, which has been conducive to the building of a new life in the two countries.

The paper further says:

Today the Nepalese people are working hard to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and develop the national economy.

The Kingdom of Nepal is striving to strengthen international cooperation, maintaining an independent stand and the principle of the non-aligned movement in external relations.

The Korean people are sincerely rejoiced over the achievements made by the Nepalese people in the building of a new life.

Further developing the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Nepal is beneficial not only to the building of a new society in the two countries but also to the building of a new Asia independent and prospering.

MINJU CHOSON says the Korean people will as ever make strenuous efforts to develop friendship and cooperation with the Nepalese people.

Society to Promote Austrian-DPRK Ties Meets

SK1505090094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0819 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA)—A general meeting of the Wiener-Neustadt branch of the society for the promotion of the relations between Austria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held on May 5.

At the meeting the chairman of the branch reviewed the achievements and experience the branch has made in its activities over the past 15 years.

Referring to the vicious anti-DPRK campaign launched by the United States and its followers with a row over nuclear suspicion to stifle the DPRK, a socialist state, he said they always stand on the side of the Korean people.

"We will fully support the Korean people in the just struggle for national reunification and strive to further expand and develop the many-sided friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples of Austria and Korea," he declared.

Burundi Parliament Supports DPRK Position

SK1605051494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—The Burundian parliament expressed support to the memorandum of the DPRK Foreign Ministry dated April 20 which threw light on the main obstacle to the solution of the nuclear issue and truth behind it.

In its note to the DPRK Embassy in Burundi, it said that the threat to and pressure on an independent state by big powers are a crude violation of international law and a big obstacle to peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the world. It expressed solidarity and support to the stand and efforts of the DPRK to resolve the nuclear problem through its peaceful negotiation with the United States.

It called upon international organisations not to cling to a double-standard policy, blindly following the big powers, but act according to their ideas and reaffirmed undisputed support to the Korean people's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Congolese Party Makes Appeal on Korean Situation

SK1605051094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—The Political Bureau of the Congolese Socialist Party on May 5 published an appeal on the grave situation created in the Korean peninsula.

Recalling that the United States has turned South Korea into a nuclear depot filled with mass destruction weapons including more than 1,000 nuclear weapons, grossly violating the Korean Armistice Agreement, the appeal said:

"The DPRK's proposal for negotiation to replace the nominal Armistice Agreement by a peace agreement and establish a new peace- keeping arrangement is a most fair measure for removing the hostile relations between the DPRK and the United States and realising negotiation."

Expressing the hope that DPRK-USA negotiation would be realized in a short time and measures be taken for bringing a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula where the situation has reached the brink of war, the appeal urged the U.S. Government to substantially contribute to world peace.

Turkish Friendship Delegation Praises DPRK

SK1405215794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The members of a delegation of the Turkish Association for friendship with the People of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were interviewed during their stay here. They said though threat and pressure of outside forces against the DPRK have been intensified, the Korean people have registered tremendous achievements in socialist construction.

Member of parliament Ali Ibrahim Tutu said after visiting the construction site of the Rungna suspension bridge:

"I was deeply impressed by the sight of soldiers engaged in peaceful construction with safety helmets and welders, not military helmets and rifles. Though the mass media of the West are alleging that Korea is making war preparations on an extensive scale, they can never cover up the truth."

He said he was deeply moved by the strong spirit of the Korean people, who were doing their business with courage and composure even in a serious confrontation with the imperialists.

Mayor Gurbuz Capan of Esenyurt City, Istanbul, said after visiting the Mangyongdae school children's palace that he could see the happiness and the bright future of the Korean people through the beaming faces of children.

Noting that the Korean people without worries about food and clothing are granted excellent benefits and conditions by the state in educating and bringing up children, he stressed that Korea is an earthly paradise, a country of the people.

Female lawyer Senal Sarihan said Korea that has successfully built socialism is the ideological support to her.

Pointing out that Korea is a model for the world people aspiring after a new life, she stressed that the press circles of the West captive to prejudice must regain reason and properly look at and represent the reality.

Kim Il-song Sends Wreath for Kwon Min-chun

SK1605230894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], today sent a wreath to the bier of Kwon Min-chun, alternate member and vice department director of the WPK Central Committee, expressing deep condolences over his death.

Kwon Min-chun died on May 16, 1994 at the age of 65 from long ilness.

He devotedly worked at important posts of the party Central Committee and foreign affairs for a long time to implement the policy of ideological work and foreign policy of the party.

Kim Chong-il Sends Wreath

SK1605230994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today sent a wreath to the bier of Kwon Min-chun, alternate member and vice department director of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] Central Committee, expressing deep condolences over his death.

Kim Chong-il Sends Centennial Birthday Table

SK1405110994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a centennial birthday table to Pak Yong-sun, an old woman residing in neighborhood unit No. 24 in Toksong-tong, Tokchon City, South Pyongan Province.

Born into a poor peasant's family in Kongju County, South Chungchong Province, she underwent all hardships as a nurse-maid at a landlord's home from early years and then a tenant farmer.

It was not until she was embraced in the bosom of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after the country's liberation that she could enjoy a worthy life of humanity. She actively participated in assisting the front in the period of the fatherland liberation war (1950-1953) and afterwards devotedly worked for the strengthening and development of the socialist motherland.

She is now the oldest woman in a big family of 50 members including her sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters.

All people in the DPRK are now living a happy life with no worry about food, clothing and housing, singing the prime of youth in the sixties and the first step into old age in the nineties, benefitting by the free health care system.

Kim Chong-il Responds to Letter Sent by Girl

SK1605051694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter from Min Su-yong, a four-year-old girl of the Kuchon kindergarten, Sariwon city, the seat of North Hwanghae Province near Pyongyang, and sent the following autographic letter to her:

"I hope you will become a good student.
April 27, 1994
Kim Chong-il"

In her letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il Min Su-yong said:

"Dear leader, I have appeared on TV twice because I was good at composition, word contest and diary writing.

"My kindergartener felt very proud of this, saying if I appeared on TV, the dear leader would be pleased to see me.

"So, I have dreamed of being received by you. And I am going to keep diaries in a fair handwriting in the hope of having them read by you."

Min Su-yong is very inquisitive and has a good memory. She began to read books and learn composition from the age of 3.

In compliance with the party's intention to systematically educate children with rare aptitude and talent, the Kuchon kindergarten taught the three-year-old girl how to read and write the mother tongue in various forms and ways. It also taught the girl with keen observation and imagination how to properly see and judge things.

With her composition capacity increasing gradually, she was able to write to Yi In-mo, the incarnation of the faith and will, and to soldiers of the People's Army and kept diaries fairly, deeply impressing people.

Upon receiving the autographic letter of Comrade Kim Chong-il, Min Su-yong vowed to study hard with brothers and sisters and become a good little writer.

Daily Carries Article on Kim Chong-il Publication

SK1605061894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0526 GMT 16 May 94

["Famous Work That Greatly Contributed To Defending and Exalting Cause of Korean-style Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Sunday carried an article contributed by Major General of the Korean People's Security Forces Yi Chun-kon, a hero of the Republic, on the 6th anniversary of the publication of "Let Us All Live and Struggle Like Heroes," an immortal famous work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, in May 1988.

The work gives comprehensive answers to all the questions arising in making the whole country overflow with the morale of heroic struggle and constantly giving full play to the tradition of heroic struggle of the Korean people.

The article says:

Living and struggling like heroes means working with all devotion for the revolutionary cause of the illustrious leader, the cause of socialism, not for personal interests and fame.

Since its publication, the work has displayed great vitality in the practice of revolution.

The validity and vitality of the work finds clear manifestation, firsts of all, in that the Korean people are staunchly defending the revolutionary cause of chuche, frustrating all manner of challenges and aggressive moves of the imperialists.

They are resolutely upholding the banner of socialism by fully displaying the heroic fighting spirit and traits with an unshakable faith in the socialist cause of chuche.

The validity and vitality of the work also finds clear manifestation in that the Korean people are consolidating and developing Korean-style socialism by effecting a constant upsurge in the revolution and construction through an all-people heroic struggle.

With the chuche-orientation, modernization and scientification of the national economy, a strategic line of socialist economic construction, accelerated successfully, the nation's economy has been further strengthened as an independent socialist national economy with all its sections including industry and agriculture equipped with modern technologies and the departmental structures rounded off.

The officers and men of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces have brought about an unprecedented renovative upswing in combat and political training and construction of major projects, upholding the idea and intention of supreme commander General Kim Chong-il on living and fighting like heroes.

The Korean people and all the soldiers will as ever cherish the idea and theory and policies expounded in the work as their faith and thoroughly apply them to practice and thereby determinedly smash any challenge and aggressive move of the enemy and staunchly defend and accomplish the socialist cause of chuche.

Soldiers Help Build Chongpung River Bridge

SK1605105694 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Soldiers of the Korea People's Army unit to which Comrade Sin Sung-chik belongs are striving for the construction of the Pyongyang-Hyangsan Expressway upholding the order from the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. The soldiers are putting more efforts in the construction of the Chongpung River Bridge. The soldiers have accelerated the construction in their resolve to complete the newly built Chongpung River Bridge as a modern creation of the chuche era. Recently, they are vigorously accelerating concreting the road after completing the V-type pillar in early April.

Technician functionaries of the unit are strengthening guidance to every process of the construction while making higher demands for all the soldiers to guarantee the construction quality. The soldiers are also speeding up the construction bearing an iron-like faith that "What the party decides, we will do."

Steel Workers Visit Soldiers Building Expressway

SK1605124594 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Functionaries and workers of Pyongyang Steel Plant visited the Korea People's Army unit to which Comrade Choe Pyong-il belongs and encouraged the soldiers who are displaying labor feats in the construction of the Pyongyang-Hyangsan Expressway.

[Kim Hyon-mok, identified by caption, no title given] The functionaries and workers of our Pyongyang Steel Plant have come to visit the soldiers, who are achieving innovations in the construction of the Pyongyang-Hyangsan Expressway as a member of the unit to which Comrade Choe Pyong-il belongs, with a feeling that we are with the comrades together at the construction site. Here, we can see the soldiers are in good spirit. We feel stronger seeing them working, and we are confident that the construction of Hyangsan Expressway can be finished by 10 October. Encouraged by the comrades' labor achievement, we are resolved to effect daily innovations in the production of steel materials entrusted by the great leader and the dear leader and to make more efforts in supporting the People's Army units.

[Officer Han Song-ho, identified by caption] We are truly cheered up by the visit of the working class of Pyongyang Steel Plant. With the firm faith that "What the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander orders and decides, we will unconditionally do," we are firmly resolved to unconditionally finish the expressway construction by 10 October this year.

Discharged Soldiers Volunteer To Work on Farm

SK1605143394 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Upholding the party's agriculture-first policy, soldiers who completed service from the Korea People's Army unit to which Comrade Kim Chong-yol belongs volunteered to advance to Pongnae Cooperative Farm in Pyonggang County with a resolve to uphold our party by increasing the grain production.

The farmers enthusiastically welcomed them upon their arrival in the farm.

[Officer Hwang Myong-chin, identified by caption] The 10 comrade party members, who completed service at our unit, have advanced in a group to Pongnae Cooperative Farm, Pyonggang County located along the demarcation line bearing the deep trust and love of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander General Kim Chong-il. During their entire military service, the officers showed examples in carrying out revolutionary duties better than any others.

After the service, these comrades could have entered colleges, returned to their beloved hometowns, or deployed to important revolutionary outposts where they could display feats. But they ran to the fields of the cooperative farm with the single will of displaying feats of youth in the construction of socialist cultural farms, which is our party's first wish at present.

[Discharged soldier Hwang Won-kun] Blessed by tens of thousands of people, the hearts of every one of us who ran to Pongnae Cooperative Farm located along the demarcation line, are burning with new hope. Fields of socialist cooperative farms. What a rewarding work site!

[Discharged soldier Hyon Myong-kwan] That's right. From today, we the 10 discharged soldier-party members will settle down in this cooperative field forever and unsparingly dedicate our sweats of loyalty. We are not simply discharged soldiers. Upholding the far-seeing plan of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, we are the brilliant soldiers of the entire country, who are running to new front lines and new outposts .

Therefore, every one of us will become a cell party member here at a unit of Pongnae Cooperative Farm. As did the revolutionary party members of Nagwon in the past days of the fatherland liberation war, we will become 10 party members of socialist farms, and add luster to our lives as reliable masters and persons truly in charge of the construction of socialist cultural farms, which are better places to live in.

[Village party secretary Kim Ho-kyu] How reliable and presentable are they? We thank the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who fostered the excellent discharged soldier-party members. We will help the 10 valuable discharged soldier-party members so that they become true heroes and reliable persons in charge of the construction of socialist cultural farms.

KCNA Reports on Chemical Fertilizer Production

SK1405050094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—Large quantities of fertilizers are now being produced by factories under the Ministry of Chemical Industry in Korea.

According to data available, fertilizer output jumped 20 percent in the first ten days of this month over the corresponding period last month, taking the ministry as a whole.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex increased fertilizer output 68 percent in this period above the same period last month by putting all the equipment in full-capacity operation.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex is now turning out a large quantity of effective fertilizers suitable to the conditions of soil and the biological characteristics of crops.

South Korea

IAEA Inspectors Leave Beijing for Pyongyang

SK1705063994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Beijing, May 17 (YONHAP)—Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] left Beijing for Pyongyang aboard a (North) Korean airways plane Tuesday [17 May] afternoon.

The three IAEA experts will conduct additional inspections of nuclear laboratories at Yongbyon, 100 km north of Pyongyang, and check whether nuclear fuel rods have been replaced at the North's 5-megawatt reactor.

The inspections, coming after a two-month pause, are important because they will determine whether the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear program is referred to the United Nations Security Council for sanctions, or the United States and North Korea hold a third round of high-level talks.

Before departing for Pyongyang, the head of the IAEA inspectors stated that he can say nothing before the actual inspections, which will begin as soon as possible.

Western sources here said the IAEA experts may differ with North Korean officials on the scope of the inspections, but such disagreement will never be so serious as to block the holding of a third round of high-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang.

North Korea is likely to employ the two undeclared nuclear facilities as a final card to be used in negotiations with the United States and the IAEA. Whether the North accepts inspections of the two undeclared sites will be the final issue to be resolved at the negotiations, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the three-man IAEA team will end the first stage of inspections by this weekend and report the results to agency headquarters in Vienna. This means a decision on the third round of high-level dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang will come next week at the latest.

DPRK Envoy on Replacement of Nuclear Fuel Rods

SK1605231594 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 16 May 94

[Report by Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[Text] Yun Ho-chin, North Korean working-level representative on the nuclear issue, revealed on 17 May that North Korea has already replaced quite a few of its burnt nuclear fuel rods at the five-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon and that the replacement job will continue for the next two months.

When asked if the replacement is in the preparatory stages, Yun Ho-chin, councilor of the North Korean Embassy in Vienna, stated that the replacement work has progressed to the point that quite a few of its nuclear fuel rods have been replaced after being unsealed.

The North Korean councilor stressed that North Korea had emphasized the inevitability of the replacement to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and had requested that IAEA inspectors observe the replacement of nuclear fuel rods on several occasions.

DPRK Envoy Cited on U.S. Sanctions Threat

SK1705013994 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 17 May 94 p 2

[YONHAP report from Beijing]

[Text] Choe Han-chun, councilor of the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, stated on 16 May that there is no reason North Korea should receive U.S. sanctions, even if North Korea has begun changing its nuclear fuel rods without the presence of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The North Korean councilor said in a news conference held in Beijing that IAEA inspectors could have arrived in time to witness the replacement work as they had enough advance notice.

DPRK Reportedly Deploys Underground Launchers

SK1705064194 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 17 May 94 p 1

[Text] In addition to multifaceted diplomatic efforts for the resolution of North Korea's nuclear issue, the ROK and the United States are strengthening their military preparedness by increasing their combined defense capabilities in preparation against the possibility of North Korea's armed provocation against the South. In particular, it has been confirmed that the armed forces of the ROK and the United States have been able to pinpoint the location of about 2,300 multiple-barrelled rocket launchers North Korea has deployed underground along the ceasefire line, and that they have secured new shells which can destroy such launchers.

On 17 May one high-level military official in the government said: "We have stockpiled special shells, including laser-beam guided missiles, which can neutralize North Korea's underground gun batteries which pose a big threat to Seoul and its vicinity." He continued to say that such new shells are capable of destroying concrete walls that are more than two meters thick.

This official added: "The U.S. Armed Forces are developing higher accuracy equipment which can destroy such underground batteries with improved accuracy. Existing equipment is sufficient for keeping a check on North Korea's underground batteries."

In the meantime, as far as diplomatic efforts are concerned, the ROK and the United States have reportedly worked out a step-by-step way of imposing sanctions in such a way as to immediately refer the North Korean nuclear issue to the UN Security Council if the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] reports that it is difficult to verify whether nuclear material has been taken because of North Korea's replacement of nuclear fuel rods.

If imposing sanctions against North Korea is impossible with China's exercise of its veto power, an international joint sanction between the ROK, the United States, and Japan may be imposed. It has been learned that with a view to increasing the efficiency of the sanctions, the ROK Government is devising a way to have Russia join in the sanctions against North Korea.

As part of this strategy, the government will make efforts to see an adoption of a ROK-Russian joint statement or joint declaration on the basis of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula during President Kim Yong-sam's visit in Russia in early June.

On 17 May, a high-level government official stressed: "If there is a report from the IAEA team saying that it is impossible to secure nuclear transparency because North Korea has already replaced its nuclear fuel rods, referral of this matter to the UN Security Council and following through on procedures to impose sanctions will be inevitable."

Vice Minister Cited on DPRK Nuclear Development

SK1705025494 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 17 May 94 p 2

[Text] On 16 May Song Yong-tae, vice minister of the National Unification Board, said: "The goal of resolving the nuclear issue is to completely scrap North Korea's nuclear weapons—if it is proven it possess them."

At the third 1994 Advisory Conference for National Unification held that day at the Secretariat for the South-North talks in Samchong-dong, Seoul, he presented a report entitled: "The Status of Recent Developments in South-North Relations and the Direction of Countermeasures." He said: "The ultimate goal of resolving the nuclear issue is not only to check North Korea's nuclear development, but also to seek a complete scrapping of nuclear weapons in case North Korea should possess them."

Such a report by Vice Minister Song is noteworthy in that it was disclosed at a time when some circles are stressing the need to tolerate [mukin] North Korea in case it has developed a small amount of nuclear weapons.

Kim Tae-chung's Remarks Cause Dispute in Party

SK1705005894 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 May 94 p 1

[By staff reporter Han Tong-su]

[Text] Former opposition leader Kim Tae-chung's remarks seemingly permissive of the North Korean nuclear program have touched off controversy with the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] demanding the government clarify its position on the issue.

In an interview with THE WASHINGTON TIMES, Kim, now visiting the United States, said that even if Pyongyang possessed "two or three atomic bombs," it would not be much of a problem compared with the 20,000 nuclear warheads that the U.S. has.

Kim's remarks are in sharp contrast with the government's official policy, which was expounded by Deputy Premier-Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku at the Korean Newspapers Editors Association's breakfast meeting on March 12. Yi told the editors, "If North Korea develops even one half of a nuclear bomb, the declaration of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula will be scrapped."

DLP officials said Kim's remarks sound like support for North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons, adding that they may jeopardize the ongoing international efforts to stop the dangerous nuclear game.

Kim Tae-chung's Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation, meanwhile, argued that Kim's remarks were quoted out of context, saying that Kim made the remarks to stress the futility of North Korea's possession of a few nuclear weapons.

In a meeting of DLP key post holders, senior party officials expressed grave worry that Kim's "irresponsible" remarks may embolden North Korea which undoubtedly has nuclear ambitions.

DLP spokesman Pak Pom-chin said, "Kim's remarks will confuse the government's North Korean policy and create uneasiness among the people."

Chief policymaker Yi Se-ki said that he can hardly understand why Kim made the "unthinkable" remarks at a time when the entire nation and international community are striving to stop the North Korean nuclear program.

DLP leaders decided to request that the National Unification Board issue a statement clarifying the government's formal position in connection with Kim's controversial remarks.

They also took issue with Kim's remarks at Washington's National Press Club advising U.S. President Bill Clinton to invite Kim Il- song to the United States and to send former president Jimmy Carter to Pyongyang as a special emissary.

DLP officials accused Kim of engaging in political activity, reneging on his earlier statement that he had quit politics for good after his presidential election defeat. If he wants to re-enter politics, he should make a formal announcement, they argued.

The opposition Democratic Party [DP] and Kim's Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation, meanwhile, tried to cool down the controversy, issuing statements saying that Kim's remarks had been misinterpreted.

DP deputy spokesman Sol Hun said that Kim has insisted on North Korea's not having nuclear weapons under any circumstances. "With his latest comments, Kim only wanted to stress that it is foolish for Pyongyang to possess such weapons," he added.

Peace Foundation Clarifies Remarks

SK1705031294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Washington, May 17 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung's Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation on Monday clarified the former opposition Democratic Party [DP] chairman's remarks about North Korea's possible possession of nuclear weapons, which have been causing a stir in South Korean political circles.

In an interview with THE WASHINGTON TIMES, Kim Tae-chung, who is visiting the United States, reportedly said that North Korea's possession of two or three nuclear bombs is nothing compared with the Western world which has more than 20,000.

Kim's comment was interpreted in South Korea as meaning that it would not pose much of a problem even if Pyongyang had two or three nuclear bombs.

The remark created shock waves in Seoul since it came only days after the minister of the National Unification Board (NUB), Yi Hong- ku, said if Pyongyang developed or had "even one-half of a nuclear bomb," it would be regarded by Seoul as nullifying the inter-Korean denuclearization declaration.

"Below the statement in question is an underlying principle that North Korea should not develop nuclear weapons under any circumstances," said the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation.

Yi yong-chak, director of the foundation's Washington office, said Kim made the remark in response to a WASHINGTON TIMES interviewer's question on whether the United States should not redeploy nuclear weapons in South Korea if the international community could not stop North Korea from developing nuclear arms.

Yi said Kim Tae-chung replied to the question by saying that it would be meaningless to redeploy nuclear weapons in South Korea.

Under circumstances where the United States has several tens of hundreds of nuclear bombs, it would mean nothing even if North Korea came to possess two or three atomic weapons, Kim Tae-chung was quoted by Yi as telling THE WASHINGTON TIMES.

Kim said he opposed the redeployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea, according to Yi.

Kim stated further that if North Korea managed to acquire nuclear weapons, it could never establish diplomatic relations with the United States and other Western countries. They would be of no help to North Korea either, Kim added.

The strong reaction to Kim's statement in South Korea was prompted by press reports that took his remarks out of context, Yi said.

In its report, THE WASHINGTON TIMES quoted Kim as saying that even if Pyongyang has nuclear weapons, they would be useless if "we don't attack North Korea."

Kim was also reported to have said the no. 1 priority for North Korea is not developing nuclear weapons but improving relations with the United States.

Washington should offer to establish diplomatic relations with Pyongyang as well as security guarantees as part of a package deal, Kim said.

If North Korea rejected such a proposal, then China would join U.N. sanctions against its neighbor, Kim predicted.

Deputy Premier Expresses Regret

SK1705105494 Seoul YONHAP in English 1038 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 17 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku on Tuesday regretted the remarks made recently by Kim Tae-chung, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation, with respect to the North Korean nuclear question.

"I regret that chairman Kim made remarks of a kind not fitting to a government policy and our public sentiments, causing various problems," Yi said.

Kim is said to have stated during his stay in the United States that even if North Korea possesses several nuclear bombs, it doesn't pose any problem.

In a comment, Deputy Premier Yi who is also national unification minister said that if North Korea comes to have any nuclear arms, military and political balance between South and North Korea would be shattered outright, bringing about a serious problem to the national security of South Korea.

"Our government stand is that North Korea should not possess even a single nuclear weapon and that if they have any, it should be destroyed under all circumstances," Yi said.

The deputy prime minister also rejected as "improper" Kim Tae-chung's idea of inviting Kim Il-song to the United States and sending Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to North Korea as a special envoy. His proposition cannot be of any help to the government policy of resolving inter-Korean issues through talks between the direct parties involved, namely, South and North Korea, Yi said.

Poll: 39.1% Believe DPRK Has Nuclear Weapons

SK1605113994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1110 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP)—Six in every 10 South Korean adults believe there is the danger of North Korea provoking a war on the Korean peninsula, an opinion survey said Monday. The poll, taken by the Korea Gallup Co., showed that 11.8 percent of the pollees replied they believe there is much danger of a war being unleashed by the North kroeans and another 46.1 percent said they think there is slight danger of such war.

The survey, conducted in a contract awarded by the Information Ministry, was made toward 1,000 people aged 20 or more across the country on may 2-3. Of the respondents, 37.0 percent said they don't see any danger of North Korea provoking a war. The percentage of those who denied war danger was high, 54.4 percent, among those with college or higher educational background.

As reasons for denial of the danger of war, 16.9 percent gave the flow of international situation against war, 12.2 percent lack of economic strength to wage a war on the part of North Korea, and 10.9 percent the North's inability to fight a war on their own.

As to the fate of the Kim Il-song system, 33.6 percent said they think the system would survive while 66.7 percent replied it would collapse either gradually or in the foreseeable future.

Asked if they think North Korea would open itself up, 7.5 percent said it would open totally, 61.3 percent it would partially, and 27.2 percent it wouldn't open at all.

On the question of whether to resume the Team Spirit exercise, 45.7 percent said the training should be held regardless of North Korea's attitude and 35.0 percent said decision on the issue should be made depending on North Korea's attitude. Only 19.3 percent said they think the exercise shouldn't be held regardless of the attitude of North Korea.

Concerning the nuclear question, 39.1 percent said they believe North Korea has already developed nuclear weapons, and 21.9 percent North Korea is in the threshold of developing them. Mere 3 percent said they believe North Korea has no ability at all to produce nuclear weapons.

Of the total pollees, 85.1 percent said they think North Korea's human rights conditions are very serious, and 93.4 percent said North Korea is experiencing a difficult economic situation.

Meanwhile, 69.7 percent of the pollees supported the government policy of accepting North Korean loggers in Siberia. About North Korean escapees in China, 40.9 percent said South Korea should accept them while 22.6 percent said the government should help them resettle in China or other third countries. Another 29.2 percent said the matter should be handled very prudently taking into account China-North Korea relations, and only 6.2 percent said South Korea shouldn't accept them.

Red Cross Proposes N-S Talks for Family Reunions

SK0905014394 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] On 9 May, Kang Yong-hun, president of the ROK National Red Cross, proposed resuming North-South Red Cross talks to North Korea to exchange visiting groups of separated families and elderly parents and resolve the overall separated families issues.

President Kang Yong-hun asked the North Korean authorities to return approximately 400 persons who had been detained in North Korea, including the crew of the Tongjin boat and those of civilian airplanes, to their families' embraces. He proposed this during a speech to today's meeting marking the Day of International Red Cross.

He also said that reuniting members of separated families is a moral issue that transcends differences in ideology and systems and is a central point of humanitarianism. He also said that the North and South Red Cross Societies must start consultations on this matter as soon as possible.

President Kang Yong-hun also said that Ham Se-hwan and Kim In-so, whom North Korea had asked the ROK to return, are not POW's but ROK citizens. He also said that demanding their repatriation is not in compliance with Red Cross humanitarianism.

* N-S Celebration Set for Independence Day

[Editorial Report] On 4 May, the National Independence Day Commemorative Committee, under the Office of the Prime Minister, completed a plan for celebrating the 15 August 1995 national independence day, according to a report in the 5 May edition of the SEOUL SINMUN on page 2. The committee is chaired by Kim Kye-su, honorary professor at the Korea University of Foreign Studies.

The plan promotes a North-South joint celebration in Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone (DMZ). It plans to establish a temporary meeting place in Panmunjom on or about 15 August 1995 for separated North and South families to meet and spend a day together. The plan also includes North-South studies on residents' living status, culture and historical sites in the DMZ.

DPRK Recalls 'Large Number' of Loggers

SK1005013094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0056 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 10 (YONHAP)—North Korea has already brought a large number of loggers back home from Siberia and the withdrawal operation is continuing, it was reported Tuesday.

A senior South Korean Government official said that the number of North Korean loggers in Siberia, which has been as high as 20,000, is currently estimated at only 7,000 to 8,000.

"The withdrawal operation became active from the beginning of this year and it is continuing as the Seoul government has decided to allow fleeing North Korean loggers to settle in South Korea," the official said, requesting anonymity.

The withdrawal could also be attributed to either a decline in seasonal demand or to a delay in the renewal of the North Korean-Russian logging agreement, he said.

The official said he could not say whether Pyongyang's action had anything to do with the Seoul government's decision to resettle all willing loggers in the South and Moscow's agreement to support the South Korean move.

Group Formed To Aid Koreans Fleeing DPRK

SK1005103494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0642 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 10 (YONHAP)—A civil organization was formed Tuesday to support North Koreans who have fled to China or who are working as loggers in Siberia.

The "Headquarters of Movement for Helping Brethren Fleeing North Korea" was officially inaugurated in a founding rally attended by nearly 300 persons including lawyer O Chae-to, Chong Nam-yol, president of the Association of Protestant Orders, and Song Won-yong, a former lawmaker, at Kodang (Cho Man-sik) Memorial Hall in central Seoul.

The group said, "North Koreans who fled to China to avoid human rights suppression and adversities and North Korean loggers in Siberia do not receive any adequate protection from the Chinese Government and the Russian Government, let alone the South Korean Government.

"It's about time we, citizens, began a pan-national movement to bring them and help them settle here."

The organization said it will begin with a fact-finding survey of the North Koreans in flight in Russia and China, ask the Russian and Chinese Governments to provide humanitarian assistance to them and start gathering funds to held them settle here.

* DPRK Investment in Leisure Facilities

[Editorial Report] The Seoul daily HANGUK ILBO on 4 April publishes on page 23 a report on North Korean investment in recreational facilities. The report claimed that in order to ease the rising social tension, the Pyongyang government has invested in leisure facilities such as karaoke music rooms and sports centers including a huge bowling center in Pyongyang.

On 25 February, Kim Il-song personally visited the newly opened Pyongyang Bowling Center and expressed his pleasure with the facilities. The bowling center, 40 lanes in a 14,300 square meter space, was built with the help of the Chochongyon [Association of pro-North Korean residents in Japan] Chamber of Commerce. It is a complete recreation center with a large restaurant, saunas and various activity rooms.

Since opening its first karaoke music room in Pyongyang in 1992, a large number of music rooms have been opened and are being opened throughout North Korea.

Recreation and sports complexes are under going major renovations. A sports, culture and rest center in Nungnado in Pyongyang will have eight tennis courts, a roller rink, an archery center, a golf practice area and badminton courts, and so on when renovation is completed. A sports center in Panwoldo, also in Pyongyang, is adding water sports facilities; a water play area for kindergarden children, a swimming pool for children and a swimming pool for students.

A new facility called "The All-Around Leisure Center," located in the Munsu area of eastern Pyongyang, is nearly ready. This center has been heavily advertised in the North Korean media as a new type of recreation center with all kinds of recreation facilities. It is expected to have sky rides, high-tech swings and other advanced amusement rides, and a summer land with various water recreation facilities.

Additionally, 26 huge theaters were built since early 1993, adding to the already existing 1,000 or so theaters. According to the North Korean media, most of these were built in the North Hwanghae Province and North Pyongan Province. These theaters can be used for movies, plays, operas, musicals and circuses.

North Korea has only one golf course and it is located in Nampo city. The greens fee is very high; 3,000 Japanese yen for members and 10,000 yen for non-members. It appears that North Korea has no plan to build new golf courses.

It is the Seoul government's view that North Korea is sensing social tension which could lead to major unrest. Thus, Pyongyang has to do something for the people and it is spending money, of which it has very little to spare, to build leisure facilities for them.

* Kim Chong-il Background, Image-Crafting Discussed

* Kim Chong-il as New Leader

942C0082A Seoul PUKHAN in Korean Feb 94 pp 60-67

[Article by So Song-u, researcher at The Institute for Peaceful Unification]

[Text]

1. Mythicizing Birthplace

Kim Chong-il has consolidated his position so much that, despite the fact that Kim Il-song is still alive, the present period in North Korea may be called "the Kim Chong-il era."

Lately Kim Il-song himself has ordered all North Koreans to be loyal to the Kim Chong-il leadership and in response people have been continually holding various events throughout North Korea to renew their pledges to faithfully uphold the Kim Chong-il leadership.

Along with these events, a propaganda campaign has been in progress among the North Korean population to idolize Kim Chong-il, highlighting his leadership capability and his greatness.

This campaign for a cult of personality is being waged on the same level as that for Kim Il-song. It was not until Kim Chong-il was named to such key posts as Political Bureau Standing Committee member and member of the Military

Affairs Committee at the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980, thereby securing his mantle as future successor, that the idolatry campaign moved into high gear.

Below I will examine the substance of each pattern in the propaganda campaign being waged among the North Korean populace to idolize Kim Chong-il in terms of his "leadership quality and greatness" by looking into specific examples.

The idolization of Kim Chong-il began with the falsification of his birthplace.

Kim Chong-il was born on 15 February 1942 [date as published] in a small village called (Vatskoy) near the Amur River basin in the Siberian tundra region. But, in the early part of the 1980's, a myth was concocted claiming that Kim Chong-il was "born in a secret camp on Mt. Paektu" and endowed with the spirit of that mountain.

The claim that he was born on Mt. Paektu, despite his actual birth in the Soviet Union, is of great significance.

Mt. Paektu is known as our nation's holy mountain, as the origin point of our race. It symbolizes the spirit of our nation, cherished by all our people. That is why Kim Il-song refers to Mt. Paektu each time he talks about his revolutionary activities against Japan. He embellishes his achievements with the words "the revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu."

North Korea fabricated the story that Kim Chong-il was born in a secret camp in the forests of Mt. Paektu that reverberated with the gunshots of the armed struggle against the Japanese. The purpose of this myth was to suggest that he was destined to succeed Kim Il-song and thus produce the propaganda effect of highlighting the legitimacy of his leadership and authority, as well as his image as the leader of not just the North Koreans but of all our nation.

To back up the false claim about Kim Chong-il's birthplace, North Korea, beginning in the early 1970's, expanded or remodeled the 30 or more of the revolution's historical battlefields in the Paektu mountains and other places such as Pochonbo, Musan, Samjiyon, and Taehungdan. At the same time, North Korea created various relics to substantiate the myth surrounding his birth—the story that in the middle of the guerrilla war Kim Il-song was waging, Kim Chong-il was born in a "log cabin" in one of the numerous secret camps in the Paektu mountains, and bears the spirit of Mt. Paektu.

These symbolic relics, known as "the revolution's historical sites of Paektu secret camps," include the sites of 10 or more secret camps, including "the Changbaek Mountain secret camp," "the Kowon Mountain secret camp," "the Kabaek Mountain secret camp," and "the Sajabong secret camp"; more than 40 log cabins; the more than 200 "camp fire sites" that North Korea claims have been recently uncovered; and thousands of trees bearing slogans.

Typical of these symbolic relics supposedly associated with Kim Chong-il in particular are the Paektu Mountain secret camp, in which North Korea claims he spent his childhood, and what they call "Chongilbong" in the Paektu mountains. In this way North Korea fabricated stories about Kim Chong-il's birth and childhood in order to embellish them to the highest possible degree. This fabrication and embellishment is part of the campaign to idolize Kim Chong-il without regard to the facts.

2. Process of Change in Titles

Since Kim Chong-il came of age, the focus of propaganda has been on his leadership quality and greatness.

First of all, the flowery titles preceding his name have changed. At the Sixth Plenum of the Fifth WPK Central Committee in December 1972, North Korea tentatively chose Kim Chong-il as future successor to power. Subsequently, the Seventh Plenum of the Fifth WPK Central Committee in September 1973 named Kim Chong-il as party secretary in charge of organization and propaganda and agitation and as candidate member of the party Political Bureau. From then on North Korea called him "the Party Center," and has used more than 30 titles to describe him for these past 20 years.

To be more specific, from September 1973 North Korea used the title "the Party Center" for Kim Chong-il until June 1975, when it designated his birthday as an official holiday and began to call him "the unitary leader." North Korea did not bring Kim Chong-il's name to the forefront, however.

Beginning in 1980 Kim Chong-il's titles took on a feature distinctively different from previous ones. From that year on Kim Chong-il's stature rose in terms of his titles by one peg on each succeeding birthday. In most cases, various flowery words describing the perfect features a leader should have were placed before the honorific "Dear Leader Kim Chong-il" to emphasize his greatness.

The titles used in those days include: "the Helmsman," "the Supreme Commander," "the Father of the People," and "the Great Guide."

Beginning in the early 1990's, titles comparable to those previously reserved for Kim Il-song appeared for Kim Chong-il, suggesting that the latter is at the zenith of power in North Korea. To give some examples of these titles: "the Leader of the Revolution Responsible for the Fate of our People," "the Great Leader," and "the Dear (and Respected) Father."

The idolatry campaign under way as part of a scheme to enhance the image of Kim Chong-il's leadership quality and authority includes propaganda about various instructions given during his "on-the-spot guidance" tours as well as tributes to his achievements through studies of his writings.

Beginning with his May 1981 visit to the Mt. Myohyang area development project, accompanying Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il visited major project sites to give what they call "practical guidance," during which he gave various instructions. Beginning in the latter part of the 1980's, the words "on-the-spot guidance," which had theretofore been reserved only for Kim Il-song's inspection tours, began to be used for Kim Chong-il's inspection tours also.

Until recently Kim Chong-il conducted more than 60 on-the-spot guidance tours. More than 60 percent of them were concentrated on the light industry sector and public service facilities associated with the people's daily lives. This, it seems, is aimed at highlighting his image as the benevolent "father of the people" who is concerned about improving the living standard of the people.

3. 1,600 Poems Written

To illuminate Kim Chong-il's image as "the leader with ideology and theories," North Korea has released or published writings attributed to him and stepped up a campaign to explain these writings through various propaganda media and discussion meetings. For instance, North Korea mobilizes cadres at party cadre training centers and various other organizations—publishing educational, scientific, literary, and art works—throughout the country to organize national seminars to praise the contents of his writings in each field or sends out party cadres and propaganda and agitation functionaries to various organizations and groups at all levels to explain and publicize his writings in the form of question-and-answer study sessions, explanation sessions, and discussion meetings. The main focus of the idolatry campaign centering on his writings is the theme that Kim Chong-il has inherited and developed Kim Il-song's ideology and theories. This puts the spotlight on Kim Chong-il's achievements in party building efforts and in the cause of the revolution.

In addition, North Korea is publishing reams of books and literary works paying tribute to Kim Chong-il's "greatness" and his "brilliant achievements" and is popularizing songs praising him in a big way. It is also encouraging ordinary citizens to write poems paying tribute to Kim Chong-il. According to North Korean propaganda, more than 1,600 poems were written for the six-month period between April 1992, the month Kim Chong-il became a marshal, and October 1992.

Recently, on the second anniversary of Kim Chong-il's appointment as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], efforts were being made to write literary works designed to publicize Kim Chong-il's military leadership capability. North Korea is also concentrating its effort on idolizing Kim Chong-il through its education system.

Courses on collected materials idolizing Kim Chong-il are given in schools at various levels. A course named "chinhyokkwa" (short form for the course on the history of the dear leader Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activity) has been created in teachers colleges to provide special education regarding him.

The following are school subjects at different levels of education designed to idolize Kim Chong-il: At the primary and secondary school levels, students in primary schools are required to take 152 hours of lessons in a four-year period of the course titled "the childhood of the dear master Kim Chong-il". Students in higher middle schools in a six-year period are required to take 112 hours of lessons in the course titled "the revolutionary activities of the dear leader Kim Chong-il" and 110 hours of lessons in the course named "the history of the dear master Kim Chong-il."

The contents of textbooks include materials idolizing Kim Chong-il in almost every subject, including the Korean language and mathematics. Thirty four out of the 236 credits in Korean language and Korean literature courses, and 26 of the 169 songs in music textbooks, have something to do with the idolization of Kim Chong-il.

In higher education, the History Department of Kim Il-song University used to offer "the history of the revolution course," but the course is now divided into two parts, namely, "the Kim Il-song course" and "the Kim Chong-il course," presumably as part of the effort to highlight Kim Chong-il's greatness.

Beginning in 1987, the "Chinhyokkwa" course was created in teachers colleges, including Kim Hyong-chik Teachers College. Only 20 to 50 students from each school are allowed to enroll for the "Chinhyokkwa" each year. The education department of each county people's committee selects students for this course from among discharged KPA soldiers who are sound in ideology and have more than three years of social experience. In the selection process, more weight is given to family background than to ability. The first graduating classes of August 1991 became guidance workers in party or government organizations dealing with organization and guidance or propaganda and agitation or in provincial or county chapters of the Leagues of Socialist Working Youth, whereas ordinary teachers college graduates just became teachers. Graduates of the "Chinhyokkwa" course concentrate their indoctrination efforts on government employees and factory and other workers to idolize Kim Chong-il.

4. 12 Revolution's Historical Sites

North Korea is waging a campaign to idolize Kim Chong-il not only through teachers but also by means of various symbolic media. The latter category includes: creation of the revolution's historical sites; fabrication of slogan-bearing trees; publication of collected legends and Kim Chong-il anecdotes; and carved words from *Quotations from Kim Chong-il* and inscription of his name on the rocks on Mt. Kumgang and other famous mountains.

As part of the Kim Chong-il cult, North Korea has fabricated the revolution's historical sites. Beginning with the fabrication in 1982 of "our historical site of the revolution," where Kim Chong-il is said to have grown up, North Korea built 12 historical sites. They are mostly associated with Kim Chong-il's birthplace and the places where Kim Chong-il took refuge during the Korean War, where he camped when he was a student at Kim Il-song University, or where he gave guidance in the countryside.

Each year 100,000 to 200,000 people are mobilized to visit these historical sites. Visitors plant commemorative trees as a token of their loyalty to Kim Chong-il and hold meetings to publish songs of loyalty and recite poems.

As for slogan-bearing trees (During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, partisan fighters stripped trees to write slogans on their bark), North Korean propaganda claims that it began to uncover these trees in a big way beginning in May 1987. Recently, slogan-bearing trees have been used actively in Kim Chong-il's image making. North Korea claims that more than 200 such trees have been uncovered that are associated with his "birth."

The publication of collected legends is aimed at fabricating legends and anecdotes on a par with those associated with Kim Il-song as part of the effort to offset Kim Chong-il's total lack of "revolutionary experience" similar to the guerrilla warfare waged by Kim Il-song.

5. History Research Center as Fabricator

The History Research Institute under the Academy of Social Sciences, the veritable delivery room for campaign materials used in the idolization of Kim Chong-il, is the place where his anecdotes are fabricated. This institute fabricates legends and anecdotes about Kim Chong-il's birth and upbringing. These legends and anecdotes circulate first by word of mouth by functionaries responsible for such publicity, and after a certain interval a full-fledged propaganda campaign is launched through propaganda media. Recently, books on these legends and anecdotes have been compiled.

The stories titled *Selected Legends of the Paektu Bright Star* are full of such absurd stories as: Kim Chong-il "captured the four Taedong River dragons, which used to cause damage to Pyongyang residents, and built the West Sea Mirim Floodgate with them"; "South Korean flood victims cooked two potfuls of steamed rice with a handful of rice out of the relief rice package sent from the North in 1984"; and "a resident in a village of cardboard homes in the suburbs of Seoul planted the rice he had received as a relief item, and one of the rice plants grew into a huge rice-bearing tree, from which he harvested 10 bags of rice."

"The Kim Chong-il flower" besides Mt. Chongilbong is considered a major symbol in idolizing Kim Chong-il. It was introduced for the first time on the occasion of his 46th birthday in February 1988.

The owner of a Japanese flower garden is said to have succeeded in developing this flower after a long period of experimentation, and presented it as a gift. It is even called the flower of immortality.

While publicizing this flower on a grand scale, North Korea encouraged its cultivation and proliferation. In this process North Korea created the Song of the Kim Chong-il Flower and is now engaged in an all-out campaign to popularize the song among its people everywhere, not only in factories and enterprises but even in buses and trains. Singing sessions are being held to explain the words of the song, to memorize them, and to sing it in chorus.

As "a symbol of the firm determination of our people to admire and follow our leader, who has accumulated immortal achievements for our times and for the cause of revolution," North Korea has carved words from *Quotations from Kim Chong-il* and his name on the liffs and rocks of Mt. Paektu, Mt. Kumgang, and other famous mountains as part of the idolatry campaign. It is sending large groups of workers, students, and residents to the places where these carvings were done to organize explanation sessions, meetings on the sands [morae moim], and loyalty meetings to pledge full loyalty to Kim Chong-il.

To cite some examples of such carvings: the words "Chongilbong" on Mt. Paektu; on Mt Kumgang, the words "Kim Chong-il, the honor of Korea, the pride of the nation," "Kim Chong-il, chuche-based lodestar," and "Dedicate Mt. Kumgang, the scenic masterpiece, to Kim Chong-il," etc.

The propaganda campaign on Kim Chong-il's great successes and achievements is not limited to North Korea, but expands into overseas.

The main propaganda formats used in the overseas propaganda campaign on Kim Chong-il since the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980 are: propaganda through foreign press media; overseas publication and dissemination of writings of Kim Chong-il; naming of foreign roads and buildings after Kim Chong-il; and having pro-North Korean writers publish articles in praise of Kim Chong-il. In addition, various events are organized overseas through pro-North Korean groups to praise Kim Chong-il. The press plays the key role in overseas propaganda campaigns to idolize Kim Chong-il. The following describes the depth of such overseas propaganda campaigns as publicized by North Korea:

On 5 December 1989 the North Korean Central Broadcasting Station said that newspapers, magazines, and other publications in 85 countries had printed articles featuring the greatness of Kim Chong-il over a five-year period. And NODONG SINMUN on 9 March 1992 claimed that more than 420 publications in 80 or more countries introduced Kim Chong-il's achievements in honor of his 50th birthday.

As the main themes of propaganda conducted through newspapers, broadcasts, and other media, "What kind of person is Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of the Korean people?" and "His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the source of inspiration for the Korean people" may be mentioned.

6. Over 400 Pieces of Propaganda Literature

North Korea is pushing the overseas publication and dissemination of Kim Chong-il's writings on a grand scale. It claims that on the occasion of Kim Chong-il's 50th birthday in February 1992, more than 400 of Kim Chong-il's writings were compiled in book form and tens of millions of them have been published overseas. They include: *On Some Questions Arising in Indoctrination in the Chuche Ideology* (July 1987) and *Let Us March Forward Vigorously on the Road of Socialism and Communism Holding High the Banner of the Anti-Imperialist Struggle!* (September 1987), in addition to *Selected Works of Kim Chong-il,* Vol. I.

Pro-North Korean organizations, such as "study groups for research into Comrade Kim Il-song's chuche ideology" and "chuche Ideology research centers" are mobilized to hold forums and seminars on Kim Chong-il's genealogy and other subjects.

Some of the roads and buildings in African and Latin American countries have been named after Kim Chong-il. Most of these roads and buildings were constructed with North Korean aid. For instance, Pabo Street in (Koriberton) in Guyana is renamed as "Kim Chong-il Street"; an Indian library building as "Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il Library"; and a ninth grade class in the Kudus School in Tunisia as "the Kim Chong-il classroom." Such cases are said to total more than 20.

North Korea also has pro-North Korean foreign writers create literary works depicting the greatness of Kim Chong-il and other pieces and publish them on occasions like his birthday.

The purpose of the overseas campaigns on Kim Chong-il is not aimed at propaganda effects overseas but rather is intended for the feedback of the "fabricated results" gained through the process of such campaigns and publicize them at home so that they may give the North Koreans the impression that Kim Chong-il is also recognized overseas as a capable leader.

One thing that we can not omit in noting the thrust of the campaign to idolize Kim Chong-il is the false claim that "the South Korean people admire Kim Chong-il."

Beginning in 1987, as part of the measures to consolidate the Kim Chong-il leadership structure, North Korean intermittently published false reports that "the South Korean people" also admire and respect Kim Chong-il. Recently, the frequency of such reports has shown a tendency to rise.

In the past North Korea carried such reports mainly through Radio Pyongyang, a propaganda radio beamed to South Korea. But recently domestic news media such as the Central Broadcasting Station—the domestic radio station—and newspapers like NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON also have been making similar claims. North Korean media claim that contrary to the past, South Korean people in all strata and all walks of life, including intellectuals, workers, artists, and students, now respect and admire Kim Chong-il.

North Korean propaganda stresses that South Koreans are saying that "it is fortunate for our nation to have Kim Chong-il as future president"—a claim designed to drive home to the North Koreans that the South Korean people view Kim Chong-il's succession to power as an accomplished fact.

As you see, the campaign to idolize Kim Chong-il has been pushed on an extensive scale and in various forms.

This phenomenon culminated in unprecedented happenings for all ages and countries, such as Kim Il-song sending a gift of Chinese poems to Kim Chong-il praising his own son and Yi In-mo writing a poem in praise of Kim Chong-il.

In the future the campaign to idolize Kim Chong-il is expected to intensify in conjunction with the consolidation of his leadership.

* Kim Chong-il's Leadership Qualities

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[Article by Dr. Chon Hyon-chun, lecturer at Sukmyong Women's University]

[Excerpts] There are two extremes of opinion regarding Kim Chong-il. At the one extreme critics say that he is quite capable of making reasonable choices thanks to his more than 20 years of experience in public life whereas the opposite opinion says that he is emotionally unstable and haphazard, acts on the spur of the moment, and is unreasonable in character. In reality, it is difficult to say which of these is accurate because of the paucity of information, a common difficulty encountered in research on North Korea. Therefore, any attempt to evaluate Kim Chong-il is full of pitfalls. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that Kim Chong-il is quite capable of making choices in the "North Korean style" on the strength of his long practical experience and with the assistance of his staff, limited as it is. Of course, this is not to say that I take at face value the overestimation of the existing arrangement for the succession on the one hand and his ability on the other.

1. Overly Packaged Kim Chong-il's Birth

In the past North Korea overly embellished Kim Chong-il's image and publicized his blown up image instead of letting people know about him as he is. The key point in the succession in North Korea is whether the successor will secure his authority as the leader. For this reason, North Korea has been doing everything possible to groom Kim Chong-il. In this effort North Korea used books and NODONG SINMUN and other news media as major tools. As mentioned earlier, in my opinion Kim Chong-il will be able to rule North Korea for a certain period on the strength of his experience and ability alone. Yet North Korea continues to overexaggerate his image, and this might rather cause his early fall.

That is why we need to analyze and evaluate North Korea's appraisal of Kim Chong-il accurately and objectively. If we were to accept the North Korean appraisal without ascertaining facts, we would be faced with difficulties in dealing with the future Kim Chong-il regime. For this reason, I will analyze the substance of "Kim Chong- il, the Leader," Vol. I and Vol. II, (hereunder referred to as "Leader- 1" and "Leader-2," respectively), Tongbangsa, 1984, co-authored by Tak Chin, Kim Kang-il, and Pak Hong-che, by way of critiquing the process of blowing up Kim Chong-il's image.

The most distorted part of Kim Chong-il's biography concerns his birthplace. According to "Leader-1," "Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was born ... at a secret camp in Mt. Paektu on 16 February 1942." In fact, Mt. Paektu, known as a sacred mountain of our nation, has been the spiritual prop of the Korean race. For this reason Kim Il-song has exaggerated the anti-Japanese armed struggle in the area around Mt. Paektu (the Changbaek Mountains), using it as the basis of his legitimacy. Accordingly, North Korea might have had no other choice but to fabricate the story of Kim Chong-il's birth in a secret camp in that mountain while Kim Il-song was waging the anti-Japanese struggle in 1942 (some say 1941). Otherwise the myth about the Kim Il- song-led anti-Japanese armed struggle in and around Mt. Paektu would crumble, weakening the logical basis of the succession doctrine as well.

The general view on Kim Chong-il's birthplace is that he was born in the South Camp in a village near Vladivostok, Russia.

2. Unstable Character

Among Kim Chong-il watchers, there is a controversy over the question of his personality. On the whole Kim Chong-il's character is far from a composed and stable type. "Leader-2" on page 167, says: "He is always pondering some problem. Even when he sits, he constantly moves; and when he crosses the room he does not walk slowly, but moves with agility." But when we interpret this remark—originally intended as a compliment—in a critical light, we would say Kim Chong-il is unstable.

Kim Chong-il could be a militant. "Leader-2" on page 123 says: "The piebald horse he wanted was still an untamed ferocious wild horse unfit for riding. The workers were reluctant, but he insisted on bringing the horse to him." The book continues: "Aggressiveness, speed, and incisiveness—this temperament clearly manifested itself in accomplishing everything at a stroke. Thrust forward quickly, break through barriers and dash forth ceaselessly by leaps—this is his unique work ethos. This passionate temperament found its expression in the Speed Battle." In this way the book pays tribute to Kim Chong-il's intrepidity. But conversely, this is indicative of being foolhardy and adventurous.

The question of modesty arises in discussing Kim Chong-il's personality. Says "Leader-1" on page 92: "He is erudite, free and easy in disposition, and does not get bogged down in anything. Naturally, in response to unanimous requests by classmates, he got himself involved in many activities on the university campus and stood at the center of the youth movement." "Leader-1" on pages 255-256 says: "His fine virtue of dealing with others with modesty and frankness always warmed people's hearts, inspiring a boundless sense of intimacy, and wrapped people around him wrapped in a family atmosphere... Wherever he went, he soon mingled with people." "Leader-2" on page 378 says: "When he mounts the platform, or leaves the hall after a meeting, he always tries to let former anti-Japanese fighters precede him. This sometimes causes a temporary halt in the flow of dignitaries mounting or leaving the platform." In this way the books try to publicize his image as a humble man.

Kim Chong-il is even said to be arrogant to people of his father's generation because he grew up as the oldest son of Kim Il-song, and identifies himself with his father's status. Reportedly, he holds his hands behind his back even in front of Kim Il-song; and that is why the "followers of Kim Il-song" complain about this attitude. Accordingly, the claim that he is humble could be fiction.

3. 'Daring,' Wide-Angle Politician

There are also arguments about Kim Chong-il's ruling style. North Korean propaganda claims that Kim Chong-il engaged in politics early on as a university student. Says "Leader-1" on page 122: "Early on in his university days, Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il emerged as a politician who contributed directly to the formulation and implementation of party policies, not as a politician who merely took part in politics to simply help implement party policies... Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was a university student and a politician at the same time." The book claims that he was a student politician who personally contributed to the formulation and implementation of party policies during his university days, going beyond simply assisting in the implementation of party policies. From all this, it may be surmised that he was interested in politics already in his youth.

Regarding his work style, North Korea is publicizing that he is a "daring" wide-angle politician. Says "Leader-1" on page 277: "It is customary for him to tackle any task daringly and boldly. But the latest large, long-distance belt-conveyer transport project was a particularly fantastic and grandiose transformation plan... In fact, after this project, numerous structures were built under a long-range plan under his guidance. The large long-distance belt-conveyor transport construction project at Unyul Mine marked the beginning of the series of impressive monumental structures erected under plans for the ages." Of course, that was true because the succeeding years saw the erection of numerous gigantic strictures, such as Changgwang Street (in 1980), the Great Study Hall of the People (in 1981), the Arch of Triumph and the Chuche Tower (in 1982) in North Korea. The problem, however, is that Kim Chong-il, who entered politics with no political philosophy, thinks anything huge is valuable without regard to efficiency and economic benefits. This is to say that contrary to North Korea' boast, what they call wide-angle politics is a reflection of the haphazard, extemporaneous, and uneconomical aspects of his personality, and it could cause him difficulties in securing his authority as the successor.

4. Kim Chong-il's Ruling Style

In addition to all those problems, the side effects of personalty cult- centered mode of rule are very serious as apparent from this passage on page 136 of "Leader-2": "He immediately sent a high-performance pump by helicopter. No sooner had he received a report that a certain mine had no means to haul dirt than he dispatched large trucks. They were able to instantly overcome whatever obstacles and temporary slack times by following his bold and resourceful countermeasures." In the last analysis, this mode of personal rule has become one of the fundamental causes leading to the derangement of North Korea's economic structure, a planned economy. This is to say that his mode of operation is a factor causing the incapacitation of the planned economy. A more serious problem is that

Kim, failing to realize the seriousness of this, is absorbed in "gift-oiled politics" and "invitation-driven politics," the acme of personal rule.

Another problem involving his ruling style concerns his working hours. "Leader-2" on page 166 says: "Dear Comrade Kim Chong- il's daily schedule begins at 0000 hours and ends at 0000 hours on the following day... Some of his aides say his schedule flows like a duet or a trio, and others say his schedule runs on a two-dimensional or three-dimensional scale." This kind of operating style has led to grumbling by functionaries. Those concerned have to stand by just in case he summons them, and this reduces efficiency due to the difficulty in adapting oneself to the different working hours. Therefore, this operating style should be viewed as a factor undermining his authority rather than an asset.

5. Kim Chong-il's Complex

Another question raised by Kim watchers is, why does he seldom appear in public? There may be roughly two reasons. First, it may be because of his scheming temperament. In this connection, "Leader-1" on page 364 explains: "While moved as they were by the marvelous changes, the general public in many cases knew very little about his hard work hidden in those marvels because he worked silently by mixing with the masses. Moreover, he tried hard to shun publicity on his achievements. That is why in most cases his heroic efforts in certain tasks came to light belatedly. This to say that what he accomplished was in the limelight, but he hid himself behind his accomplishments." Nevertheless, it may not be out of modesty but because of his scheming personality and his tendency to shun the masses that Kim Chong-il avoids public appearances as much as possible. Some critics attribute it to his "inferiority complex about being short."

Secondly, his poor conversational skills may be another reason. Of course, "Leader-2" on page 12 praises his speaking capability in these words: "He delivers powerful speeches in plain words, but he leads the audience to the high ground of his unique thought through his well-organized logic." However, none of his speeches has ever been broadcast in his own voice. This sheds light on the question of his public speaking capability. That he is an illogical and unsystematic orator was proven by the testimonies of Choe Un-hui and Sin Sang-ok. In this connection, it may be said that Kim Chong-il has a "stutterer complex."

6. Childhood Glorified

Another problem is that "Leader-1" and "Leader-2" exaggerate Kim Chong-il's wizardry. North Korea traces back Kim's childhood to age three in order to highlight his love of the country. "Leader-1" on page 8 describes his return to Korea as follows: "One day shortly after liberation Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was en route to Pyongyang on board a boxcar with his mother, Mme Kim Chong-suk, and other female anti-Japanese fighters. The train traveled along the scenic east coast in the liberated homeland before heading west. As he watched a hamlet of thatched houses at the foot of the mountain from the whistling train, his face beamed with joy. Everything seemed to welcome him and his party with an extended hand. Young as he was, he felt deep in his heart the preciousness of the fatherland."

According to this book, he must have been 3 years old when he returned to Korea, for he was born in 1942. A 3-year-old prodigy could have an exceptional ability to speak and comprehend, as well as exceptional mathematical reasoning power. But according to experts, even such a whiz kid is not emotionally mature enough to express his inner feelings about his country. Therefore, the claim that he felt deep in his heart the preciousness of the fatherland at that young age is an exaggeration of his personality. This is to say that North Korea is exaggerating Kim's childhood in an attempt to deify him and elevate him to the level of Jesus Christ.

"Leader-1" on pages 14-15 tells anecdotes about him as a preschooler. An old man was telling the story of a woman named Kye Wol-hyang, who during Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea in 1592, spied on the enemy and passed the secrets to our forces, resulting in the death of an enemy general and the recapture of Pyongyang. The old man was embarrassed because he could not recall the name of the Japanese general. At that moment Kim Chong-il, who sat near the old man, gave him the name and left quietly. The audience called the young child a whiz kid. That is the gist of the story. The book also carries the following anecdote about Kim's exceptional wisdom: "From childhood Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il surprised those around him by his wide-ranging knowledge and high level of intelligence that were beyond imagination for his age. First of all, his knowledge and intelligence are gifts of nature." "Leader-1" on page 25 says: "The intensity of the fire of his effort and enthusiasm can be surmised by the single fact that the books he read from childhood through secondary school numbered in the thousands."

Regarding Kim's academic ability, "Leader-1" on page 91 says: "Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's writings are really many- sided. The forms and methods he uses in writing scientific theses are very diverse and the scale of his works is huge indeed. The substance covers a wide range of politics, economics, education, science, literature, and art." Even if these anecdotes are true, they are not particularly unusual. Kim Chong-il might have had an extra lesson in Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea from his tutor, and thus the young Kim, dubiously known as a prodigy, might have been able to recall the name of the Japanese general. But no doubt they went too far when they turned him into a prodigy. The claim that he is a bookworm may be accepted at face value to some extent, but the claim that he is an expert in all fields, not just one particular field, is hardly acceptable.

7. Kim Chong-il's Doubtful Record

Whether Kim Chong-il studied abroad or not is also an open question. "Leader-1" on page 57 says: "Quite a few people predicted that Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il would study abroad when he graduated from a higher middle school. People thought so partly because it was a popular notion in those days that anyone desiring to be successful in life should go abroad to study, and partly because he traveled abroad in his higher middle school days before going on to university. His decision to study at Kim Il-song University, however, was a demonstration of his thoroughgoing chuche awareness to pursue studies based on reality in his own country where the great chuche ideology and party policy, its embodiment, are in bloom."

Generally speaking, quite a few youths belonging to the generation that experienced colonial rule in the early 1900's went abroad to study, and North Koreans were no exception. As the author of "Leader" admits, the general atmosphere in those days was such that study abroad was essential for the ruling elite. However, suppose that Kim Il-song, who adopted self-reliance and chuche as the dominant ideology, had sent Kim Chong-il abroad to study for whatever reasons, it might have raised a serious question about the "holiness" and "the chuche stand and attitude" of the Kim Il-song regime. That is why North Korea is stressing that Kim Chong-il did not go abroad to study.

However, the problem is that there is a 2-year blank in Kim Chong-il's schooling. He entered Namsan Higher Middle School in Pyongyang in September 1957. But it is not clear where he was in from August 1958 when he was enrolled at his higher middle school, to September 1960 when he entered Kim Il-song University. Some critics say he was studying at the East German Air Force Academy. They try to substantiate this speculation by the fact that when he writes the Arabic numeral 7, he crosses it with a bar, just as Europeans do—a practice not found among Orientals. One may refute this by saying that he might have taken on that habit while he was playing with the children of Russian advisers.

On the other hand, there is another somewhat different question concerning the North Korean claim that Kim Chong-il uncovered the thesis "On Combating Dogmatism and Formalism in Ideological Work and Establishing Chuche," known as the theoretical foundation of the chuche ideology in North Korea. Says "Leader-1" on page 167: "In March 1968 Kim Chong-il "spotted the leader's following handwritten manuscripts among his notes: 'On Combating Dogmatism and Formalism in Ideological Work and Establishing Chuche,' a masterpiece dated 28 December 1955; and 'On Communist Indoctrination,' a speech delivered in November 1958; in addition to the April 1965 Theses."

The claim that he uncovered the manuscript of "On Combating Dogmatism..." in 1968 is of very great significance. As is widely known, this document, supposedly published by Kim Il-song in 1955, is a very important document in the study of North Korea's chuche ideology. But the problem is that none of the official papers, including NODONG SINMUN, ever published it that year. Accordingly, most probably this document was fabricated by necessity in 1968. 1968 was when the campaign to idolize Kim Il-song reached its peak, and they might have found it necessary to fabricate Kim Il-song's image as a "great chuche ideologist." To this end, North Korea published numerous educational books, including "A Sketch of Comrade Kim Il- song's Revolutionary Activity" and "Picture Book on the History of the Leader's Revolutionary Activity," in order to publicize Kim Il-song's revolutionary thought and the sagacity of his leadership. Quite possibly, it may be said that North Korea fabricated the document, "On Combating Dogmatism..." as part of this propaganda campaign.

In conclusion, the overblown image of Kim Chong-il in "Leader-1" and "Leader-2" is a natural outcome of the personality cult that has become a religion in North Korea. To define a proper relationship between Kim Il-song "the God" and Kim Chong-il the son of "the God," they have no choice but to deify Kim Chong-il. Accordingly, in an attempt to exaggerate Kim Chong-il's legitimacy and infallibility, they fabricated the myth that he was born on Mt. Paektu, and made false claims about his wizardry, benevolence, prowess, and ideological quality, etc. It is a fact that this kind of hoodwinking works on the North Korean people, who remain in social- political infancy. But sooner or later the lies will come to light; and when the "icon in the cave" breaks, North Korea will be thrown into terrible turmoil.

* Celebration To Worship Kim Chong-il

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[Article by Kim Chong-min, former president of Taeyang Trading Company, a firm run by the Workers Party of Korea]

[Excerpts]

1. "Wishing you happiness" Disappeared

The weather in early January in North Korea is usually very cold, and in this frigid weather the communists stage a propaganda barrage, including political-ideological campaigns, to idolize Kim Il-song and his son, Kim Chong-il. That is why the new year atmosphere in North Korea is entirely different from what it used to be before liberation. And it is one of the main features of this season that the Workers Party [WPK] bustles about trying to make people feel that the atmosphere is less oppressive.

In North Korea there is a lot of propaganda going on every month. But February is special because Kim Chong-il's birthday falls then. The lunar new year, the founding anniversary of the Academy of Sciences, and Machine Industry Day also fall in February. Formerly, the founding anniversary of Korean People's Army (KPA) was also observed then, and February marks the proclamation of the Communist Manifesto. But as arrangements for the transfer of power between the Kims took hold, Kim Chong-il's birthday came to assume special significance, and people have to bustle about at home and in their organizations making preparations to celebrate the "February Holiday," Kim Chong-il's birthday. [passage omitted]

In North Korea the word "happiness" is interpreted by and large in a Confucian or superstitious sense. The communists have long claimed that there is no such thing as Heaven or Buddha, nor God. The Workers Party emphasizes that "No one should depend on Heaven and God, unscientific beings, but realize that he can be happy only under the solicitude and care of Kim Il-song and his son." That is why to say "Wish you happiness" would be tantamount to an insult to Kim Il-song and his son. [passage omitted]

The typical greetings exchanged among North Korean people on New Year's Day are "Congratulations on the New Year." Some go one step farther and say, "Be healthy in the New Year." The highest form of greeting is to say, "Let us work harder to be loyal to the leader and the party."

The words people use in addressing one another in North Korea differ slightly depending on one's social status. The word "tongji" [comrade in English] is used in addressing a superior, and the word "tongmu" [friend, or comrade in English] in addressing a subordinate. The word "sonsaeng" [teacher] is used among teachers when they address each other, or by a junior when he addresses his many years senior. In most cases "tongmu" or "tongji" is used.

By the superior-subordinate relationship here is meant not only the relationship in offices between superiors and inferiors but also the differences in social status and sex. It is customary for women to use the word "tongji," which is considered more honorific than the word "tongmu," in addressing a male colleague who is equal in rank and about the same age, for the simple reason that he is a male.

To give typical examples of how North Koreans address one another, they put either the surname or given name and his title before the word "tongmu,' for instance, "so and so guidance worker tongmu." In addressing a soldier, one puts his military rank before the word tongmu. In addressing an unmarried woman whose name is not known, the words "chonyo tongmu" are used.

During their stay in Pyongyang, members of the South Korean delegation to the last North-South high-level talks were said to have used the word "agassi" when they talked to waitresses or female guides in their hotels or at the parties, and this evoked an ire of the waitresses and female guides. But as far as these waitresses were concerned, their protest was quite natural or so it seems.

This is because the meaning of the word "agassi" is distorted in North Korea, and it implies a mean word associated with bar hostesses or toys for playboys.

2. Origin of "February Holiday"

In the month of February all North Koreans are busy preparing for Kim Chong-il's birthday. This, together with the rigidity of social customs, produces an atmosphere giving the impression that no other human beings exist except Kim Il-song and his son in the North. Kim Chong-il's birthday began to be officially marked inside the party in 1973 shortly after he emerged as the future successor. The observation of his birthday gradually expanded until it became an official national holiday, observed both party-wide and nationwide, beginning in 1976.

As is well known, the Workers Party carried out concrete campaigns to highlight the image of Kim Chong-il as heir to Kim Il-song after he was formally designated as such under meticulously worked out many-sided plans.

Kim Chong-il was born to Kim Il-song and his wife, Kim Chong-suk, in the former Soviet Union's far east where the senior Kim and his wife were spending relatively peaceful days after having taken refuge there from mopping-up operations by the Japanese Kanto Army. While partially acknowledging the circumstances surrounding Kim Chong- il's birth, the North Korean Communists worked out an elaborate plan to conceal information on the place of his birth.

Under this plan it must have been not so difficult to change his birthplace from the Soviet Union to Mt. Paektu and present him as a genius from his childhood.

Unexpected difficulties were encountered in the attempt to squash all kinds of sordid rumors and scandals about Kim Chong-il that circulated in the days when he was enroled at Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute and Namsan Higher Middle School. The main reason is that he indulged in so many unsavory acts. But in those days these scandals were regarded as something to be proud of in view of his great importance as the son of Kim Il-song instead of being looked upon as misconduct. Naturally it became an awfully difficult to conceal them.

It must have been under Kim Il-song's orders that the North Korean Workers Party did its best in those days to preserve Kim Chong-il's "authority and prestige." This is apparent from the fact that the party presented "the 10-point program for establishing the unitary ideology system of the party" in 1974, strongly demanding the idolization not only of Kim Il-song but also of Kim Chong-il in accordance with the principle of "the unitary leadership system."

The Kim Il-song clan concentrated its influence in such a way as to enhance Kim Chong-il's position, and this caused various secondary problems. It is well-known among party insiders that in those days Kim Chong-il's most intimate college classmates who were involved in his misconduct were ruthlessly punished.

During the early part of Kim Chong-il's leadingship in art, filmdom in particular, with his post at the party's Department of Propaganda and Agitation, he indulged in debauchery with beautiful women in movie and theater circles for quite a long time.

Shortly after Kim Chong-il was appointed as party secretary in charge of the WPK Department of Organization in his capacity as the future successor to power, his birthday was observed as a party holiday beginning in 1974, when he was 32. On his 34th birthday on 16 February 1976, his birthday was designated as a national holiday, and ever since it has been observed as such.

3. Kim Chong-il's Birthday and Lunar New Year

North Korea reinstated traditional festivals such as lunar New Year's Day in preparation for the eventuality that it would be compelled by its domestic situation to agree to inter-Korean personnel exchanges not only at an official level but also at a private level. North Korea feared that through North-South talks South Koreans might come to notice that many traditional national festivals had long since disappeared, and North Koreans might come to notice how the South Koreans still observed traditional national festivals.

True, North Korea revived some of the old festivals including the lunar New Year and the Tano Festival (the fifth day of the fifth lunar month). But the peculiar characteristics of the communist regime permitted the revival of these festivals only in form. Inasmuch as the lunar New Year happens to fall in about the same season with Kim Chong- il's birthday, it was an impossible thing to revive this festival in its original form. North Korea could have attached some significance to it, but did not do so because of Kim Chong-il's birthday.

In those days in North Korea, as is the case now, it was inconceivable to think Kim Chong-il could be involved in any misconduct. Kim Il-song never permitted the disclosure of Kim Chong-il's debauchery, which remains the junior Kim's major misbehavior.

A countless number of those infamous pimps who vied with each other in those days to curry favor with Kim Chong-il were subsequently sacrificed to prove that not Kim Chong-il, but the sycophants were responsible for all his flaws that appeared before or after he was designated as Kim Il-song's future successor. They include: Chon Mun-sop, then commander of the Guard Force; Chang Yun-pil, then adjutant general for security at Guard Department I, the General Bureau of Security; Pak Sung-un, then deputy director of propaganda at the political affairs bureau, the Ministry of Public Security; and Cha Kye- ryong, then head of the Movie Actors Group.

Kim Chong-il continued to indulge in debauchery even after he was designated the successor, producing many more toadies. Kim Il- song's second wife, Kim Song-ae, dropped hints to him about Kim Chong- il's misconduct. But Kim Il-song squashed them recalling her interference when they were young and suspecting that Kim Song-ae might be dropping such hints in retaliation for her fall in her prestige in as a result of Kim Chong-il's designation as successor.

However, at about the time Kim Chong-il's sex scandals were on the verge of becoming public, his relatives, including Hwang Chang-yop and his wife and Yang Hyong-sop, were officially informed of the misconduct, making them concerned about its possible consequences. With this happening, Kim Il-song became enraged and exercised his authority to bring the trouble under control.

First, Kim Il-song examined Kim Chong-il's performance as successor in the making, and after determining the causes of the trouble, dealt with those responsible. Later, during a top-level session of the December 1977 WPK Plenum, he placed "special organizational issues" on the agenda. With Kim Il-song in the chair, the meeting did not scrutinize Kim Chong-il's conduct, but nevertheless evaluated his performance very closely. From beginning to end, the meeting examined "problems that have cropped up within the party."

Following the Plenum, the party removed Kim Chong-il's portraits from some places and suspended the campaign to idolize him. In addition, such strict restrictions were placed on matters requiring Kim Chong- il's full participation that he was allowed to handle them only with the approval of Kim Il-song.

In those days ordinary homes were not allowed to hang Kim Chong-il's portraits; only the Party Central Committee and other party organizations at the central level were allowed to do so. That is why ordinary people had practically no way of knowing about this ruffled father- son relationship. However, it is true that people got the impression that the frenzied campaign to idolize Kim Chong-il had nearly come to a halt and that Kim Chong-il himself was so circumspect as to take a back seat.

With things coming to this, the question of making Kim Chong-il the successor became a subject of open discussion once again beginning in the late 1970's because Kim Il-song had no way of choosing anyone other than Kim Chong-il as his successor. In 1973, a year after Kim Il-song's 60th birthday in 1972, Kim Chong-il was appointed as Party secretary in charge of organization. However, there was a time when various adulatory titles for Kim Chong-il disappeared for a while—titles such as "the Party Center," "the sagacious leader," "the great Kimilsongist," and "the lodestar."

In those days a harsh punishment was meted out to Yi Yong-mu, Kim Chong-il's notorious pimp who was promoted to the directorship of the General Political Bureau, the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, from its deputy directorship. Many of his associates also became a subject of discussion as possible targets of punishment.

Some of these pimps were hit hard by Kim Chong-il himself for the mistakes they committed as pimps, and others were punished by his father because they were too sycophantic to Kim Chong-il.

Then Minister of Culture Pak Chong-sin, the former South Korean stage actress who defected to the North, ended up losing her position because she, a middle-aged woman, offered no help to Kim Chong-il in his debauchery and was in fact regarded as a source of trouble by meddling in every move of famous actresses.

On the surface, the sole excuse used in dismissing people in North Korea is the failure to implement party policy and the distortion of Kim Il- song's instructions. In all cases, the real reason was that officials had called for righteousness against the wrongdoings of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il or they failed to please their whims.

This same Kim Chong-il came into the spotlight once again during the process of making preparations for the Sixth WPK Congress in 1979, and he has remained in the spotlight ever since. Leaving his work and daily life aside for future discussion, here I will briefly describe how North Korea celebrates Kim Chong-il's birthday.

4. Additional North Korean National Holiday

As was the case with Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il has tried hard to attach great significance to his birthday. [passage omitted]

There was one change that took place for the first time after Kim Chong-il was elevated to his post as director of the WPK Department of Organization and Guidance. Ordinary people came to know of it two to three years later. There are many who still do not know about it. The change was the replacement of license numbers of cadres' private cars with the numerals indicating the date of Kim Chong-il's birthday.

Beginning in the mid-70's Kim Chong-il personally presented sedans to cadres as gifts. All these cars carried license numbers beginning with 2-16. This practice continues. North Koreans call these sedans "gift cars" or "Central Party cars." [passage omitted]

Cars carrying license numbers beginning with 2-16 can pass check points in the suburbs of Pyongyang and travel anywhere in the country without a travel pass, curfew pass, or Sunday pass.

North Korea raised the lower limit on the ranks of officials eligible for the private use of automobiles by one or two grades beginning in the early 1970's due to the gasoline shortage. Lower ranking officials had to use official cars dispatched upon request. Even the operation of dispatched cars was strictly controlled, with their use banned on Sundays and at nighttime.

Kim Chong-il presents signed "citations" and "watches bearing his name" to close aides. Anyone who receives a citation or a gift watch from Kim Il-song or Kim Chong-il who retires under the age limit, is entitled to receive his pre-retirement salary. For this reason, these citations and watches are highly coveted.

These are luxury watches made to order, and have a large variety, including gold Rolexes and Omegas. They are allocated according to the ranks of the awardees. Of course, retirement pay varies according to rank.

Anyone who had an opportunity to meet Kim Il-song or Kim Chong-il on official business, or who was granted an audience in recognition of meritorious service, will be recorded as one granted an audience. He will not only be given social prominence but also be assured of a monetary reward in his old age. Of course, its size varies depending on the substance and nature of the audience.

In North Korea no cadres, party members, or non-party officials are allowed to exchange gifts. This is because the ban on exchange of gifts is stipulated in the 10 Party principles on the grounds that gift exchanges are bound to result in an unprincipled collaboration.

When a cadre is discovered exchanging gifts, he becomes a "target of disciplinary action" and is subject to charges of violating the unitary ideology system. He is subjected to disciplinary action by the party or loses his job. However, it is a stark reality that despite these strict controls, the practice of exchanging gifts is rampant due to chronic scarcities and shortages.

But things are different with Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il. As was the case with Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il is fond of exchanging gifts. While watching him playing his gift-exchange game, one may question whether he is administering the affairs of state or playing house. This is because he indulges so much in the game of exchanging gifts and other tokens with his aides and toadies. [passage omitted]

On his birthday Kim Chong-il gives gifts to his close aides, top cadres, and even second-echelon officials in the Secretariat according to rank. He pays more attention to choosing gifts on his birthday than he does on the occasion of the "DPRK Foundation Day" or "Party Foundation Day."

In some cases he gives far more and far better gifts on his birthday than on his father's. Most probably, he might be doing so under special instructions from Kim Il-song.

With the establishment of Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's practice of exchanging gifts with others, a gift section was formally set up in the WPK Central Committee to prepare all gifts to be presented. In addition, the Office of the President and the second bureau of the General Bureau of Security each have their own special sections to handle gifts from Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

In special cases, Kim Chong-il presents automobiles to some cadres on his birthday on 16 February. Ordinarily, daily necessities and food items are the bulk of the gifts. Generally, the list includes: fabric for suits, shirts and ties, underwear, briefcases, suitcases, and various home electronic appliances, books of poetry, quotations from Kim Il-song or Kim Chong-il, fountain pens, ballpoints, calendars, etc., etc. Included in food items are: venison, pheasant, various kinds of meat, canned meat, tangerines, candies, and alcoholic beverages (one or two bottles).

Gifts are presented collectively to each unit of each party organization sometimes, and individually at others. With food gift items, it is customary to share them with people in the same office or subordinates. But occasionally, this is not the case with some recipients.

Before Kim Chong-il's birthday was designated as an official holiday, Kim Il-song on the occasion of his 60th birthday had a serious and lengthy discussion with his aides to examine various problems that might arise in the future when Chong-il's birthday was to be observed as a national holiday so that they might work out measures to deal with them in advance. The reason was that they believed that the observance of Kim Chong-il's birthday would be of great importance in idolizing him.

Kim Chong-il was born on 16 February 1942. In those days the date 8 February was observed as People's Armed Forces Day in commemoration of the founding of the KPA on that date in 1948. Therefore, realistically it would be a problem if they were to observe two national days in the same month, about a week apart. The reason was that they had to highlight Kim Chong-il's birthday, and yet it would be illogical to downgrade Armed Forces Day.

After much thought, the WPK had at a fantastic idea. The 8 February holiday would be merged with the founding anniversary of the People's Revolutionary Army Day on 25 April, integrating the two into People's Armed Forces Day. The Party claimed that this was in line with the KPA being the successor to the People's Revolutionary Army. The underlying thought was that the date of birth is something that cannot be changed and that by combining the two armed forces days, the party would be able not only to highlight the KPA as the inheritor of the revolutionary tradition but also to enable the KPA to take pride in its history, which is as long as that of the army of any other country.

5. Birthday Functions

Functions on Kim Chong-il's birthday do not differ much from those on Kim Il-song's except for the peculiar focus of the former. Emphasis is placed on highlighting Kim Chong-il's image as an "artistic genius" and "the sun of the future."

Customarily, he loathes appearing at formal conferences or official gatherings. On the contrary, he rather likes informal get-togethers, such as social gatherings, private parties, concerts, and drinking parties. [passage omitted]

The subjects of conversation at social gatherings held at Kim Chong-il's initiative are mostly political issues and matters related to the idolization of him, or sex problems discussed in the background of music and dance.

It is no exaggeration to say that the basic established theories behind current party policies in North Korea have their origin in conversations at these sundry informal gatherings such as private parties organized by Kim Chong-il's aides in his honor, where all problems converge so that he and his aides might discuss them.

Parties are organized prior to Kim Chong-il's birthday presumably to decide the scope and form of the celebration. Subjects of discussion will include: the direction of political work; the substance of propaganda and agitation; the direction of art and cultural work; matters relating to report meetings, commemorative lecture meetings, and seminars; the direction of overseas propaganda; the direction for birthday celebrations giving full play to the characteristics of each sector; the substance, methods, and forms of events that will be held by agencies at all levels and by the general public in celebration of the birthday.

Needless to say, not all these matters are discussed each time. Except for policy issues concerning the birthday observance and some of the matters relating to the scope, form, and substance of the observance, it is a rule to follow past practice even without specific instructions.

In the early 1970's, his birthday began to be observed. Subsequently, the scope and substance of its celebration gradually expanded and diversified each year except for about a one year hiatus in around 1978. Mass artistic presentations developed as the main form of celebration. In the beginning the observance of Kim Chong-il's birthday was overshadowed by Kim Il-song's, but it is significant that the observance increasingly became an open affair and finally developed into a public observance full of political paraphernalia.

Until the late 1980's the general substance and form of celebration consisted of art performances in each unit and organization in addition to those presented by national art organizations. On the whole, performances at each unit took the form of a mass presentation by administrative, party, and other cadres of the unit. Strikingly, they have sought artistic impressions of loyalty through inter-unit competition.

Normally each unit presents art performances three or four times. But they spend several months making preparations. Some go so far as to concentrate on rehearsals leaving work aside. Others lacking their own talents appoint outsiders or expert artists to certain positions in advance and call them up when they need them as members of the cast in their presentations in honor of Kim Chong-il's birthday. Powerful organizations such as the Central Committee are more prone to this kind of expediency.

Kim Chong-il or Kim Il-song takes part in the best program selected from art performances presented by nonprofessional groups, and the cast of that program will win the trust and special consideration of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il. That is why all units are vying each other to, in their words, "offer happiness and satisfaction." That is what is going on in North Korea today.

All kinds of things occur in preparation for performances. Some cadres, total strangers to the arts, are compelled to participate because they cannot decline, for it involves the question of loyalty. The moment they appear on stage, they stand like a totem pole, unable to utter their lines, or they act so awkwardly that the audience breaks into laughter. It is so comical that Kim Chong-il likes it. That is why more and more people are participating in birthday performances, and some interesting performances are staged.

Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il mobilize various party and government organizations to exact birthday gifts from our 20 million fellow countrymen in the North. As on Kim Il-song's birthday, all organizations and certain individuals are forced to present letters of congratulations on Kim Chong-il's birthday. This was established as a routine political formality. [passage omitted]

They have even created a special flower called the Kim Chong-il flower just as they previously created the Kim Il-song flower.

On Kim Chong-il's birthday, all units and inhabitants have to present their gifts, which are roughly divided into four categories: first, foreign currency as a token of loyalty; second, gold as a token of loyalty; gifts of loyalty (health food, agricultural products, traditional native products, fishery products, and various ornaments and valuables); fourth, the selection of the Kim Chong-il's ideal maiden. [passage omitted]

* Kim Chong-il Geneology, Writings

9420087A Seoul PUKHAN in Korean Feb 94 pp 80-89

[Text]

Profile of Kim Chong-il

PERSONAL HISTORY

Name: Kim Chong-il (Prior to 1980 the Chinese spelling of "il" of Kim Chong-il was [0001], not [2480]).

Blood type (unknown).

Date of birth: 16 February 1942 (Some say he was born in 1941).

Place of birth: The 88th Special Regiment's base in (Yangoe) village in Khabarovsk Oblast, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. His name was registered as (Ilusenovich Kim). His childhood name was "Yura." * The official Kim Chong-il biography published in the early 1980's does not give his birthplace. In 1980 North Korea named a peak in Mt. Paektu as Chongilbong after his name and began to claim that Kim Chong-il was born on Mt. Paektu.

Present address: The Central Party building in Namsan-tong, Chung-ku, Pyongyang Special City. The location of his private residence is not known, and reportedly, he changes his residence from time to time.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Height: 158-162 centimeters. Weight: 85 kilograms. Head: Slightly bald near the forehead; the hair on the front part of his head is permed. Spectacles: Eyesight, 0.1/0.2, near-sighted; wears glasses; is fond of wearing sunglasses. Attire: Wears a brown or gray shirt in the summer, a blue and gray people's uniform in the winter, and occasionally a sweater; wears a suit just once [interval not specified]. Shoes: Wears high-heeled shoes matching the color of clothing he wears. * Earned the nickname "kodo" [altitude] thanks to his habit of wearing high-heeled shoes.

FAMILY RELATIONS

Kim Hyong-chik married Kang Pan-sok. Kim Il-song was born to them in 1912. He married Kim Chong-suk (born in 1917), and Kim Song-ae (born in 1924).

With Kim Chong-suk, he had Kim Chong-il (born in 1942), Syu-ra, and Kim Kyong-hui (born in 1946). The latter married Chang Song-taek (born in 1946) and that union produced Chang Kum-song (born in 1977). Kim Chong-il married Hong Il-so and that union produced Kim Hye-Kyong (born in 1968). Kim Chong-il married Song Hye-rim (born in 1937) and that union produced Kim Chong-nam (born in 1971). Kim Chong-il also married Kim Hye-suk and that union produced Kim Un-song (born in 1974).

Kim Il-song's marriage to Kim Song-ae resulted in the births of Kim Kyong-chin (1952), Kim Pyong-il (1953) and Kim Yong-il (1955). The latter is listed as having an offspring named Kim Song-kang (born in 1983 with no mother listed). Kim Kyong-chin married Kim Kwang-sop (born in 1952) and the union produced two children (Kim Chung-min, born in 1981 and Kim Tong-min, born in 1983). Kim Pyong-il married Kim Sun-kum (born in 1956) and that union produced two children (Kim Un-song born in 1981 and Kim In-kang born in 1983).

EDUCATION & CAREER

Sep 1948: Entered elementary school at Namsan School, Pyongyang
Jun 1950: Transferred to the Jilin Institute in Jilin, Jilin Province, China
Nov 1952: Transferred to the fourth grade at the elementary school in the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute
1953: Graduated from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute (the fourth graduating class)
1953: Transferred to the fifth grade at Pyongyang No. 4 Elementary School from Samsok Elementary School
Sep 1954: Entered Pyongyang No. 1 Middle School; served as chairman of the Young Pioneers
Sep 1956: Entered Namsan Higher Middle School (senior middle school level)
Sep 1960: Entered the Political Economics Branch, the Economics Department, Kim Il-song University
May 1964: Graduated from Kim Il-song University
Apr 1964: Joined the Department of Organization and Guidance, the WPK Central Committee
1965: Party organizational guidance worker at the North Hamgyong Province WPK Committee
1967: Guidance worker at the Department of Propaganda and Agitation, the WPK Central Committee
1969: Deputy director of the Department of Organization and Guidance, the WPK Central Committee
1971: Deputy director of the Department of Culture and Art, the WPK Central Committee
Dec 1972: Member of the Sixth Plenum of the Fifth WPK Central Committee
Sep 1973: Secretary of the WPK Central Committee for organization and propaganda
Feb 1974: Member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee
Oct 1980: Elected to the Party Military Affairs Committee at the Sixth WPK Congress
May 1990: First vice chairman, the National Defense Commission
Dec 1991: Supreme commander, the Korean People's Army
Apr 1993: Chairman, the National Defense Commission
Feb 1975: Hero of the Republic Apr 1979: The Order of Kim Il-song first class
Feb 1982: The title of Hero and the Order of National Flag first class
Apr 1992: The title of Marshal of the Republic

Never in Military Uniform

Unlike his half brother Kim Pyong-il, Kim Chong-il has no military experience. But he is currently the KPA supreme commander and holds the title of marshal. He is also the chairman of the National Defense Commission.

But he was never, not even once, shown up in military uniform. Even when he reviewed troops during the 60th anniversary of the North Korean army (on 25 April 1992), he was in people's uniform, not in military uniform. [passage omitted]

Little Experience Abroad

He was born in the Soviet Union. During the Korean War, he took refuge in Jilin in Jilin Province, China. He never stayed longer in any one place abroad than he did in Jilin.

(North Korea claims that Kim Chong-il took refuge in Mt Changsa in Kanggye where he engaged in logistic support for the KPA.)

Subsequently, accompanying Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il visited Moscow in 1957 and East Germany and Romania in 1959. That is about all of his travel experience abroad. There is an unconfirmed report that Kim Chong-il attended an East German air force academy, but he left the academy and returned home shortly afterward probably because he did poorly at school.

Kim Chong-il toured various places in China in 1983 and 1984. There is no further information on his foreign experience.

Maybe that is why he likes movies and music. Reportedly, he likes Russian, American, and Japanese movies and Korean folk songs. He likes to drink cognac while boasting of North Korean wine, and smokes British Dunhill cigarettes, probably to vicariously sample a foreign experience.

As for his known foreign language ability, he can say only such rudimentary expressions as "Thank you" and "How are you?" in Japanese. Presumably, he may speak some Chinese and German also.

Perhaps he may be having some other foreign travel experiences in secret.

Kim Chong-il's Nicknames

The more closed a society is, the more secret language it produces. An examination of argot associated with Kim Chong-il or his nicknames will be of great help in understanding his personality.

Some of the derisive expressions used to describe his appearance are: "oppossum hair" and "chuche hair" for his curly hair; "squint eyes" or "cross- eyed," "midget," "greenhorn," and "little bear" for his eyes and diminutive stature. Expressions deriding his behavior include: "womanizer," "pervert," "brat," "hedgehog," and "chestnut burr." "Altitude" is slang deriding his habit of wearing elevator shoes to appear taller than he is. [passage omitted]

List of Kim Chong-il's Writings

Sep 1960: "On Pivotal Tasks Confronting University Youth Organizations"
Oct 1960: "On Reexamining the Issue of the Unification of the Three Kingdoms"
Mar 25, 61: "Let Us Raise High the Bonfire of the 10,000-Page Book Reading Campaign"
Apr 18, 61: "Let Us Consolidate Knowledge Gained Through Practical Training in School"
Jan 15, 62: "On the Characteristics of Modern Imperialism and Its Aggressive Nature"
Feb 22, 62: "On Establishing the Revolutionary World Outlook Firmly Among College Students"
May 4, 62: Literature dealing with socialist economic construction.
Aug 5, 62: "The Validity of Our Party Policy on Developing Local Economy"
Sep 19, 62: "Let Us Strengthen the Unity and Solidarity of Party Members' Ideological Will Based on the Leader's Revolutionary Thought"
Jan 8, 63: "Let Us Sum Up Party Life at a High Political-Ideological Standard"
Jan 14, 63: "The Taean Work System Is an Ingenious Socialist Economic Management System"
Jun 12, 63: Literature on Staunchly Defending the Line of Building a Self-Reliant National Economy
Jul 19, 63: "On Enhancing the Role of Student Party Cells"
Jul 29, 63: "On Firmly Establishing the Party Ideological System Among College Students"
Aug 29, 63: Literature on the necessity of arming oneself airtight with the revolutionary tradition and on important problems arising in implementing this policy
Oct 18, 63: "On Establishing the Revolutionary Life Ethos Among College Students"
Mar 18, 64: "The Position and Role of the Military in Building Socialism"
Mar 30, 64: "Let Us Become Revolutionaries Infinitely Loyal to the Party and the Leader"
Apr 64 thru Dec 72: Selected Works of Kim Chong-il, Vol. I and Vol. II (Refer to Appendix 2)
Apr 64 thru Dec 73: "On the Consummation of the Chuche Revolutionary Cause," Vol. I and Vol. II (refer to Appendix 3)
Apr 11, 73: "Discourse on Filming Art"
Feb 19, 74: "On Several Immediate Problems in the Party's Ideological Work To Convert the Whole Society Into Kimilsongism"
Feb 28, 74: "On Smashing the Outmoded Style and Bringing About a Turnaround in Party Ideological Work"
Apr 2, 74: "On Several Problems That Arise in Understanding the Chuche Philosophy"
Apr 9, 74: "On Further Developing Public Health Work"
Apr 14, 74: "Let Us Establish the Unitary Ideology System More Firmly in All of the Party and Society"
May 7, 74: "Our Party's Publications and Press Materials Are Powerful Weapons in Contributing to the Conversion of Whole Society Into Kimilsongism"
Jun 10, 74: "On Improving the Work of Party Organizations in the State Administration Council's Committees and Ministries"
Aug 2, 74: "Let Us Vigorously Accelerate the Conversion of Whole Society Into Kimilsongism by Drastically Improving Party Work"
Oct 1, 74: "On Improving the Work of Feature Film Studios"
Oct 9, 74: "Let the Whole Party Mobilize Itself All-Out To Vigorously Wage the 70-Day Battle"
Nov 6, 74: "On the Basic Duties of Science and Educational Film Studios"
Dec 6, 74: "Let Us Create More Revolutionary Literary

Works as Demanded by Our Socialist Reality"
[date indistinct]: "On Operatic Art"
Jan 28, 75: Literature on bringing about a new upswing in socialist construction by improving the operational method of party work and vigorously waging three revolutions
Apr 30, 75: "On Nurturing More Female Cadres"
May 2, 75: "On Firmly Consolidating the Revolutionary Forces and Further Improving and Strengthening Party Work To Suit the Demands of the Current Situation"
May 6, 75: "For the Further Development of Our Chuche-Based Arts"
Jun 13, 75: "On Several Problems Arising in Current Party Work"
Jul 1, 75: "Let Us Bring About a New Upswing in Production by Vigorously Waging Three Revolutions"
Oct 5, 75: "Let Us Correctly Implement Party Policy in Creating Music and Dance"
Oct 22, 75: "To Improve Ideological and Artistic Qualities in the Production of Revolutionary Opera"
Jan 1, 76: "On Several Key Tasks That We Must Grasp Tightly in This Year's Party Work"
Feb 6, 76: "Let Us Bring About a New Upswing in This Year's Agricultural Production by Strengthening Partywide Guidance to Rural Economy"
May 1, 76: "On Improving and Strengthening Hospital Management and Operation"
Jun 10, 76: Literature on the method and operational style of party work
Oct 2, 76: "On Correctly Understanding the Originality of Kimilsongism"
Oct 22, 76: Literature bearing great significance in achieving party unity and solidarity
Nov 8, 77: "On Establishing a Revolutionary Ethos in Implementing Party Policy"
Jan 1, 78: "Let Us Fulfill the Second 7-Year Plan Ahead of Schedule by Summoning the Whole Party and All the People Under the Revolutionary Slogan of Self-Reliance"
Mar 1, 78: "On Several Problems That Arise in Developing Filming Art"
Jul 13, 78: "On Establishing Revolutionary Discipline in the Party and Stepping Up Partywide Guidance in Socialist Economic Construction"
Aug 22, 78: "On Pivotal Tasks Confronting Current Party Work"
Dec 25, 78: Literature on bringing about an upswing in socialist construction by increasing the militancy of the party
Mar 19, 79: "Party Functionaries Must Be the Chuche-Oriented Standard-Bearers of the Struggle for Communist Revolutionization"
Apr 28, 79: "On Thoroughly Establishing the Party Leadership System"
Jan 8, 80: "Let Us Strengthen the Party and Bring About Another Upswing in the Revolution and Construction To Mark the Sixth Party Congress!"
Jan 8, 80: Let Us Decisively Improve the Political Insight and Creative Capabilities of Writers To Suit the Demands of Developing Reality
Apr 25, 80: Remarks made during a meeting with several female members of the Anti-Japanese Revolutionary Struggle
Sep 27, 80: "On Further Improving the Political-Administrative Standard of Party Functionaries"
Dec 3. 80: "On Several Tasks That Confront Party Organizations:"
Mar 8, 81: "On Further Improving and Strengthening the Party's Ideological Work"
Mar 31, 81: "On Further Developing Chuche-Based Literature and Art"
Jun 12, 81: "Several Tasks To Improve Cadre Training Work"
Jul 13, 81: "On Stepping Up Partywide Guidance in Work With Youth and Children"
Jan 7, 82: "On Tackling Party Work in a More Aggressive Way"
Mar 31, 82: "On the Chuche Ideology"
Oct 17, 82: "The WPK is the Chuche-Oriented Revolutionary Party That Inherited the Glorious Traditions of the Down-With-Imperialism Union (DIU)"
Nov 21, 82: "On Improving and Strengthening Judicial and Prosecutorial Work"
Dec 15, 82: "On Strengthening Socialist Law-Abiding Life"
Jan 14, 83: "Let Us Bring About a Revolutionary Upswing in Party Work to Suit the Demands of the Current Situation"
Jan 15, 83: "Let Us Further Consolidate and Develop the Successes Scored in the Creation of Literary and Art Works"
May 3, 83: "Let Us March Forward Holding High the Banner of Marxism-Leninism and the Chuche Ideology!"
Feb 16, 84: "On Further Improving the People's Livelihood"
Mar 10, 84: "On Consolidating the Ranks of the Revolution and More Vigorously Accelerating Socialist Construction"
Apr 25, 84: "The People's Army Personnel Must Defend Their Leader and Party and Their Country With Their Lives"
May 3, 84: "On Further Strengthening Trade Union Work"
Jul 15, 84: "On Further Strengthening the Role of Party Organizations in Central Government Agencies"
Jul 22, 84: "On Further Developing Education"
Aug 3, 84: "On Several Problems in Improving Food Supply Work for the People"
Aug 4, 84: "On Several Problems in Further Developing Acrobatic Art"
Nov 19, 84: "On Improving and Strengthening National Land Management Work"
Dec 11, 84: "Letter of Congratulation: To Workers, Technicians, and Office Employees of Kaesong Textile Mill and Members of Its Three-Revolutions Team"
Mar 1, 85: "Let Us Create More Music, Dances, and Films Suitable to the National Sentiment of Our People and the Contemporary Aesthetic Sense of Our Time"
Apr 13, 85: "Let Us Further Strengthen the People's Army Into an Invincible Force"
Apr 21, 85: "On Further Stepping Up Public Health Work" Apr 30, 85: "On Strengthening Partywide Guidance To Workers' Organizations in Their Work"

May 2, 85: "Answers to Questions Raised by the President of Democratic Kampuchea"
Aug 3, 85: "On Further Developing Science and Technology"
Dec 14, 85: "On Further Strengthening the Work of the Union of Agricultural Working People"
Jan 3, 86: "To Strengthen and Develop the Ranks of the Party and the Revolution and Bring About Another Upswing in Socialist Economic Construction"
Mar 27, 86: "Let us Decisively Improve Writers' Political Insight and Creative Skills To Suit Developing Reality"
May 17, 86: "Let Us Bring About a New Upswing in the Creation of Revolutionary Literature and Art Works"
May 19, 86: "On Popularizing Sports and Quickly Developing Athletic Techniques"
Jul 15, 86: "On Several Problems Arising in Indoctrination in the Chuche Ideology"
Nov 4, 86: "Letter of Congratulation: To Teachers and Students of Kimsong Political College"
Nov 23, 86: "Let Us Step Up the Movement to Win the Red Flag of Three Revolutions More Vigorously"
Nov 25, 86: "On Waging a Campaign to Do Farming by Farmers Themselves in Rural Areas"
Apr 11, 87: "On Further Developing Mass Games"
Sep 25, 87: "Let Us Vigorously March Forward on the Road of Socialism and Communism by Raising the Banner of the Anti-Imperialist Struggle Still Higher!"
Oct 10, 87: "On Firmly Establishing the Chuche View of Revolution"
Apr 20, 88: "On Theatrical Art"
May 15, 88: "Let Us All Live and Struggle in a Heroic Way"
Oct 12, 88: "The Present Time and the Duties of Youth"
Oct 26, 89: "Answers to Questions Raised by the President of the Cuban Paper GRANMA"
Nov 27, 89: "On Further Improving and Strengthening Labor Administration"
Dec 28, 89: "Let Us Give Full Play to the Korean-Nation-Comes-First Spirit"
Jun 2, 90: "On Thoroughly Waging the Light Industry Revolution"
Sep 13, 90: "On Improving and Strengthening Financial and Banking Operations"
Oct 3, 90: "The WPK Is the Organizer and Helmsman for All Victories of Our People"
[date indistinct]: "The Letter of Reply to Members of the Second Party Cell at the Fifth Bureau of KCNA"
[date indistinct]: "Letter of Reply to All the Comrades in the Korean Literary Production Company"
May 5, 91: "Our Type of People-Centered Socialism Is Invincible"
Aug 26, 91: "Let Our Youth Be a Young Vanguard Infinitely Loyal to the Party and the Leader"
Jan 3, 92: "Historical Lessons of Socialist Construction and the General Line of Our Party"
Oct 10, 92: "On Fundamental Problems in Building a Revolutionary Party"
[date indistinct]: "On Heightening the Leadership Role of the Party"
Feb 18, 93: "Let Us Develop the Youth Movement in Our Country Onto a Still Higher Stage"
Mar 4, 93: "No Interference to Socialism Can Be Tolerated"

Other monographs: "The Theory on Creating Korean Style Paintings"; "The Theory of Choreographic Art"; "The Theory of Handicraft and Industrial Art Creation"; "The Theory of Acrobatic Art"; "The Theory of Instrumental Music Creation." (These Writings are confirmed through the 1987 "Korean Central Almanac"). "On Implementing Party Policy Unconditionally and to the End," a thesis published in the NODONG SINMUN 14 June 1988 issue. "A Discourse on Choreographic Art," 30 November 1990; "A Discourse on Fine Art," 16 October 1991; "A Discourse on Musical Art," 17 July 1991; "A Discourse on Architectural Art," 23 October 1991; and "Discourse on Chuche-Based Literature," 20 January 1992.

Chongnyon Methods To Send Money to DPRK Listed

SK1605140194 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 5 May 94 pp 12-16

[Article by reporter U Chong-chang: "How Is the Money of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan Remitted to North Korea?"]

[Text] We could not feel the warm breeze of April but a piercing wind was blowing, making us adjust our clothes. We are at Niigata Port, situated on the western coast of Japan, at around 1430 on 20 April. Niigata Port is where the fellow countrymen who were repatriated to the North, are filled with regret. Right at this place, the ship Mangyongbong-92 came to anchor. It left Niigata Port on 11 April with the congratulatory group of Kim Il-song's 82d birthday and the visiting group to visit their families who were repatriated to the North. It returned after making a 1,000km trip from Wonsan to Niigata.

At around 1330, one hour before the arrival of the Mangyongbong-92, one omnibus carrying a a white banner with the word "reception" in Korean, and one automobile upon which hung a large North Korean flag arrived at the pier. The only people welcoming the Mangyongbong-92 were five to six people in the omnibus and the automobile which came from the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon] Headquarters in Niigata Prefecture and the Niigata Central Branch of Chongnyon. The crowd welcoming the Kim Il-song birthday congratulatory group was also shabby.

When the Mangyongbong-92 slowly came into the pier, the 'Song of General Kim Il-song' was heard through the large speaker. Employees of the Niigata Port Maritime Security Office set up barricades at both ends of the pier and controlled people from coming and going. When the door of the ship's cabin opened, three Japanese customs officers went on board and then the passengers got off board headed by an old man in a wheelchair. The number of passengers amounted to 250 people.

When leaving Niigata Port on 11 April, there were about 1,000 pieces of baggage, but now there was only one bag per person. They left with much baggage and returned empty handed. Some big figures including reporters from the CHOSON SINBO, a paper affiliated with Chongnyon, carried North Korean special products such as blueberry wine and ginseng liquor. These were not contained in shopping bags but in vinyl bags for one-day use. The customs procedure ended by attaching just one tag to their belongings.

In connection with the North Korean nuclear issue, measures for economic sanctions in North Korea have been brought up. Thus, Niigata Port is once again attracting the world's attention. Among the economic sanctions, the greatest blow North Korea can suffer from is blocking the remittance of money to North Korea through the Mangyongbong-92. The easiest place to restrain the Mangyongbong-92 from going to North Korea is Niigata Port.

Niigata Port is the original base of the repatriation ship. Niigata Port can be seen in our textbooks. The first repatriation ship left Niigata Port on 14 December 1959, carrying 975 Korean residents in Japan from 238 households. Since then until 1984, 93,339 Korean residents in Japan boarded the repatriation ship for North Korea at Niigata Port. Since there were no longer any Korean residents in Japan who wanted to go to North Korea, such a project was completely suspended in 1984. Nevertheless, the Mangyongbong-92's entry into Niigata Port continues.

Along the 2km road from the Minami Plaza Hotel in Niigata Prefecture to the office of the Niigata Chongnyon Headquarters, many willows have been planted. They have been planted along the street every 50 meters. This is the 'willow street' which Chongnyon takes pride in. Chongnyon had planted these trees in commemoration of the first repatriation ship that left Niigata Port in 1959. The willows which were only the size of a child's finger, have now grown to be as thick as an adult's thigh, 35 years later. The willows are growing to be a symbol of time showing the history of the repatriation ship.

It has been learned that since last autumn, when it began to discuss in earnest the problem of economic sanctions against North Korea, the Japanese Government has put under control Chongnyon's remittance to North Korea via Niigata port. However, we could not sense such an atmosphere on-the-spot at Niigata. The international terminal of Niigata port where the Mangyongbong is anchored was rather decorated as a tourist site. The terminal did not look like a chilly and quiet port as it was seen when Korean residents in Japan were repatriated to North Korea in the past. An observation platform and seats for spectators were installed in the terminal so that people can observe the Mangyongbong calling at and leaving the port. Even spectators were able to freely observe customhouse officers' inspection activities nearby. The information board installed in the terminal was written in Korean along with English and Japanese. In other words, the terminal has changed into a sightseeing spot for South Koreans.

We could sense North Korea's serious food shortage even at Niigata port. When the repatriation of Korean residents to North Korea began in the past, North Korea's propaganda said that North Korea "will provide them with a tile-roofed house, silk clothes, rice, and meat soup," and the Mangyongbong intentionally prevented repatriates from loading their food on the boat. This was in order to show that North Korea "lives in opulence."

However, entering the nineties, North Korea did not prevent the repatriates to North Korea from bringing food with them. Rather, in 1991 Chongnyon waged a campaign to send foodstuffs for the repatriates to North Korea. What cropped up in the wake of this campaign was so-called "foodstuffs sets for gift." The foodstuffs sets were divided into three kinds of "rice set," "rice-cake set," and "noodle set."

The "rice set" contains 10 kilograms of rice, two cans of sesame oil, one bag (500 grams) of condiments, and one bag (one kilogram) of sugar. "Rice-cake set" and "noodle set" also contain foodstuffs such as ramyon noodles, condiments, and sugar. The price of each foodstuffs set is 11,000 yen. Korean residents in Japan who are not repatriated to North Korea, as well, can buy and send these foodstuffs sets to North Korea.

The company which deals with this business is the Kyonghwa Business Company in Niigata Prefecture. The Kyonghwa business company is located one kilometer away from Niigata port and 50 meters away from the Chongnyon Niigata Prefecture Headquarters. The Kyonghwa company founded in June 1976 is operated by the Chongnyon Central Headquarters. The head of the Chongnyon Central Headquarters is Yi Chae-yong.

In addition to the Kyonghwa company, there are the Chongnyon Niigata headquarters, the Chongnyon Niigata Central Branch Office which is in charge of repatriating Korean residents in Japan to North Korea, the Choun Credit Union which is a Chongnyon-operated Korean bank in Japan, and the Chongnyon-operated Korean junior and senior high schools in Niigata Prefecture. Korean compatriots in Niigata number about 2,700. Of those, Chongnyon-affiliated Korean residents are only about 960. The number of students at the Chongnyon-operated schools does not exceed 70. Mr. Kim Haeng-su, standing adviser to the (pro-Seoul) Federation of Korean Residents in Japan [Mindan], 71, said that "the number of seceders from Chongnyon is on the increase."

Chongnyon's routine life in Niigata varies according to the moves of the Mangyongbong. On the day when the Mangyongbong does not put in at the Niigata port we can see the shutters of the buildings of Chongnyon Niigata Central Branch Office and the Kyonghwa business company pulled down. We can see no one in these buildings, as well as in the building of the Chongnyon Niigata headquarters. On the contrary, when the Mangyongbong calls at the port the shutters open again, and the buildings become a houseful of people carrying baggage. The Korean residents belonging to Mindan were not interested in the Mangyongbong calling at and leaving Niigata port.

One day in early 1990 the Mangyongbong delayed its departure time for a couple of hours despite the fact that passengers and cargo were already on board and customhouse officers' inspections, as well, were finished.

A couple of hours later, a taxi arrived hurriedly in front of the Mangyongbong. The person who got off in a hurry from the taxi was a certain Yi, vice chairman of the Chongnyon Headquarters. He carried a briefcase. The Mangyongbong departed as soon as he embarked on the ship. Later, a former Chongnyon cadre member revealed that the delay in the Mangyongbong's departure at that time was because of this briefcase which contained money.

Cargo carried by the Mangyongbong is inspected at random by Japanese customs offices, which open and inspect about ten parcels selected randomly out of thousands unloaded at the port. They confiscate those things found to be uncleared, and clear everything that has no particular problem. This inspection system has been unchanged for a long time.

Japanese customs inspection is not tight because of government policy. The Japanese Government thoroughly controls the introduction of drugs and murderous weapons in the country, but customarily hardly interrupts people from taking them out of the country. Japanese law allows anyone who stays in Japan to carry money not exceeding five million yen without notifying the Ministry of Finance when departing Japan. Passengers of the Mangyongbong are no exception. Some people, however, criticize that the Japanese Government does not control the illegal remittance via the Mangyongbong under the situation in which the North Korean nuclear issue has emerged to be a worldwide issue because it does not want to have the extra security burden imposed by possible protests by Chongnyon.

However, a large amount of cash is hardly found inside the cargo. Chang Myong-su, 60, who was vice chairman of Chongnyon headquarters in Niigata and is working as secretary general of the Council for Treating Defectors from the Republic [North Korea] since he left Chongnyon as he felt conscientiously uneasy with the business of sending people to North Korea, said: "People do not attempt the dangerous gamble of hiding money inside packages because there are various ways to send money to North Korea."

The Mangyongbong Is the Source of Money for the North Korean Regime

According to a common view, Chongnyon funds are dispatched to North Korea through the Mangyongbong, banks in Japan, and third countries. Out of these three channels, the Mangyongbong is known as the best for the open remittance of large amounts of money.

In 1975 North Korea began to ask Korean businessmen affiliated with Chongnyon to donate to the fatherland. The dispatch of money through the Mangyongbong also began that year. The late Mun Tong-kon, who was vice chairman of Chongnyon and was one of the special figures who made huge donations to North Korea. He built a 5,378-ton cargo ship worth approximately one billion yen and donated it to North Korea. Mun's donation was reported large scale in the August 1976 issue of KUMIRUI CHOSON, a Japan-based North Korean magazine for propagating North Korean affairs to Japan. The ship donated by Mun was used in transporting North Korean Terroists involved in the Aungsan Mausoleum incident.

In November 1993, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported that millions of yen were flowing into North Korea, hidden in suitcases and plastic bags carried by the Mangyongbong. Sato Kazmi [as transliterated], head of the Hyundai Korea Research Institute in Japan, said that about 60 Billion yen come into North Korea each year through the Mangyongbong, thus astonishing the world.

There are differences in opinion on the total amount of money dispatched to North Korea through the Mangyongbong. However, Japanese Government officials, the Institute for Studying Economic Issues in Asia, the East Asia Trade Institute, and the ROK Embassy in Japan are unanimously saying: "The estimate that the total remittance through the ship is 60 billion yen is against common sense. The presumed amount is about 10 to 20 billion yen per year."

A former high-ranking official of Chongnyon said: "The Chongnyon economy is influenced by the long-term economic slump in Japan. The annual donation by an individual reached several hundred million yen before 1980, but since the beginning of 1980 it declined and was finally reduced to tens of millions of yen at the end of 1980."

The total amount of the remittance to North Korea through the Mangyongbong is still unknown, but no one denies that this ship is the source of money supporting the North Korean regime as well as the channel for smuggling advanced technologies needed by North Korea. This is proven by facts that most equipment used by North Korean spies is made in Japan, that a Japanese truck made by Nissan was rebuilt as a missile launching ramp in North Korea, and that Pyongyang Children's Palace is decorated with computers from Japan's NEC.

A high-level source of Chongnyon has said: "The sending of compatriots to North Korea has greatly contributed to North Korea's munitions industry. To cite an example, Nikon lens-making technology went to North Korea in the sixties, and that of the semi-conductor industry went in the seventies. Such technologies have not been properly made use of because North Korea has not had its own technology to put those technologies into practice."

There is no limit as to the number of personal items to be loaded onto the Mangyongbong. Back in the early eighties, North Korea limited the cargo to four items per person so as to block materials of vulgar Western culture, including pornographic magazines, from being imported along with other cargo. Items of personal cargo were once limited to only two. But, since the end of the eighties, the limits have been lifted. This is a sign showing the economic difficulties facing North Korea. A Chongnyon-affiliated industrialist in Niigata has once even carried a total of 16 pieces of luggage on his way to meet his child who had earlier been repatriated to North Korea.

Chongnyon sometimes remits money to North Korea through banks in Japan. A typical bank of the kind is the Asikaga Bank. The bank is a regional bank in the Tochigi Prefecture and has about 160 branches across the country. It is a main bank with which the Chongnyon-affiliated Choun Credit Union is in a correspondent relationship. The Asikaga Bank has opened a legal correspondent relationship with the Choson Joint-Venture Bank headquartered in Pyongyang.

Money Sent in Crisp Dollar Bank Notes on Kim Chong-il's Birthday

The third method is the remittance of money through a third country such as China, Macao, or a Southeast Asian country. A former Chongnyon cadre bore testimony to this, saying: "The remittance through a third country is mainly done in Macao. Yamaguchigumi, a gang of thugs in Japan, has a base in Macao. Remittance is simple. A man willing to send money goes to Macao. He does not have to carry money when traveling. He borrows money from a gang of thugs on mortgage of his stationery assets in Japan. After the gang examines, through its organization in Japan, his capability for such mortgage, the gang lends money to him within the scope of his capability. In this way, a man has once remitted $500,000 at a time.

This route was often utilized with the approach of Kim Chong-il's birthday (16 February). The money to be sent to Kim Chong-il should be in crisp dollar bank notes. If the bank notes are used ones, those involved will be blamed for blasphemy. Therefore, they go to Macao and withdraw brand-new bank notes from a Macao branch of a Chinese bank. The amount of money is limited to $2.16 million to match the date of his birth [16 February]. The money is wrapped in a thin cloth, put into Samsonite bags, and then sent to North Korea."

He added that if a Chongnyon-affiliated industrialist complains of the difficulty in donating money, North Korea would even propose that "if you go to Macao, you will be introduced to a remitter." He went on to say: "As the amount of money sent in has dwindled since the early nineties, North Korea has forcibly demanded that Chongnyon-affiliated industrialists "donate money in return for being provided with North Korean zinc ingots and steels on a priority basis." When industrialists say "it is difficult to remit money due to Japanese Government surveillance," using this as an excuse to turn down such a proposal, then North Korea presented a method by saying "then, come to Macao, you will be introduced to a Japanese gang of thugs."

Ogata Sigetake, Director General of the Japan Public Security Investigation Agency, said in answer to a question by a Diet member of the Liberal Democratic Party at the House of Representatives's Budget Committee on 30 March: "The ways of remitting money to North Korea mainly consists of payments in trade transactions; sending money to relatives or acquaintances in North Korea; paid-in capital in joint venture projects; and donations to the Workers Party. Major ways for the remittance are to remit money through banks, to hand-carry money to North Korea, and to ask those visiting North Korea to carry it."

It is said that there are many other ways than using only the Mangyongbong route. For example, remittance can be carried out through Japanese people, not through Chongnyon routes. Because there are many ways like this, Japanese businessmen share the view that it is hard to expect any effect to come from an economic sanction against North Korea.

PRC Urged To Guarantee Import 'Transparency'

SK1005090494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0838 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea called on China Tuesday to guarantee transparency in its import policy and to legalize the importation of South Korean automobiles.

Seoul also sought Beijing's understanding in minimizing damage from Chinese farm produce flooding the local market.

The two sides sat down for their second trade talks in Seoul led by Chong Ui-yong, director-general for international trade on the South Korean side, and Shi Weisan, director-general for Asian affairs at the Chinese foreign trade and economic cooperation ministry.

Bilateral trade totaled 9.1 billion U.S. dollars last year, with Korea posting a 1.2-billion-dollar surplus in direct exchanges. The surplus is an even larger 3.3 billion dollars, however, when indirect trade via third countries such as Hong Kong is included.

Officials predicted that two-way trade will increase to 28 billion dollars by 1997 and to 50 billion dollars by the year 2000.

Seoul's requests included favorable consideration for South Korean participation in Chinese economic development and construction projects.

Beijing responded that it will review them within possible boundaries, officials said.

China, meanwhile, sought the removal of duties on 20 products subject to South Korean adjustment tariffs, including ginseng goods, officials here said.

Seoul will ask Beijing to strengthen its own quarantine rules as Chinese food and farm imports often fail to pass inspection at Korean customs.

PRC To Investigate Murder of ROK Businessman

SK1005012694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0028 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Beijing, May 10 (YONHAP)—The Chinese Government is conducting a thorough investigation into the murder of a South Korean businessman who was found dead in Northeastern China over the weekend, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

"We do not want this kind of mishap to take place in China, although it is the kind of incident which can occur in any country," said Spokesman Shen Guofang at a meeting with South Korean reporters.

"The Chinese Government has taken measures to guarantee the safety of foreign investments here and the security of foreigners doing business in China, and will continue to reinforce such measures," said the spokesman.

A 53-year-old Cheju resident, So In-sok, was found dead over the weekend in Changchun city, Jilin Province. So's relatives said he journeyed to Changchun last March when several ethnic Koreans told him about promising business opportunities there.

Iranian Oil Minister Signs Agreements, Departs

LD1305105194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Our country's oil minister yesterday, on the second day of his visit to South Korea, met with heads of building companies and commercial firms and oil refinery managers. In the course of these meetings, the possibility of cooperation with South Korea's oil companies and commercial firms in the fields of importing natural gas and liquified petroleum gas from Iran and their participation at the oil, gas, and petrochemical projects in the Persian Gulf were investigated, and it was agreed to exchange expert delegations in this connection.

During the meeting between Mr. Aqazadeh and heads of the Korean firms, some memoranda of understanding were exchanged.

The oil minister and his accompanying delegation left South Korea for Kuala Lumpur today.

Navy To Participate in Pacific Rim Naval Exercise

SK1305022594 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 May 94 p 3

[Text] The South Korean Navy is to join RIMPAC '94, a five-nation joint naval exercise scheduled for May 26 to July 16 in the western and central Pacific, the Defense Ministry announced yesterday.

Two Korean frigates are to join the 52-day joint naval maneuvers, in which over 60 warships including two U.S. carrier battle groups, 200 aircraft and 25,000 officers and sailors from the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan are participate.

RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) drill, which began in 1971 under the initiative of the U.S. Navy, is intended to secure the safety of sea routes in the Pacific and enhance the joint operational capability among navies of Pacific-rim countries.

The drill is held once every two years and the South Korean Navy began to participate in 1990. In RIMPAC '92, the Korean unit was awarded the Top Gun award thanks to its excellent naval gunfire.

The joint naval maneuvers have nothing to do with the international political situation including the impasse over the North Korean nuclear program, said a Defense Ministry spokesman.

British Combat Software Selected for Destroyers

SK1305035194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0253 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 13 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry gave final approval Friday to the Navy's choice of a British combat system for Korea's new destroyers.

The final contract saved Korea 22 billion won as the price of the SSCS (Surface Ship Combat System)-MK7 was cut 34 percent from the original offer in 1992 and revised to minimize treasury loss on the part of Korea, ministry officials said.

The advanced software system of Bae-Sema Ltd. (BSL), to be installed in the new warships under the KDX (Korean Destroyer Project) program, was selected over Germany's Cosys-200K1.

The Defense Ministry completely revised the screening process for the combat system when the German equipment was chosen in June last year despite the Navy's preference for the British version.

The fact that the British Navy already has a contract on a similar destroyer system that the Koreans wish to adopt and that the British system was estimated to have better "follow-up logistics support" tilted Korea toward the SSCS, the officials said.

The SSCS sets will be installed in the next-generation Navy destroyers, now under construction, with advanced computer operational capability.The project is due to be completed by 1998.

Reformers Object to President, Buddhist Meeting

SK1305110494 Seoul YONHAP in English 1052 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 13 (YONHAP)—A planned meeting between President Kim Yong-sam and Buddhist leaders was called off on Friday due to objection by some reformist Buddhist leaders.

The Culture and Sports Ministry had arranged the meeting as part of the administrative move to mend discords between the administration and the Buddhist circles caused by the recent Chogye-sa incident.

"We had prepared for a meeting between President Kim and the Rev. Wolha, the new Chogye order patriarch, and other Chogye leaders at the suggestion of the Culture-Sports Ministry, but it failed to take place due to objection by some reformist leaders," a Chongwadae [presidential offices] official said.

He said Chongwadae planned to hold the meeting on next Monday, two days before the Buddha's coming day, Wednesday.

"But, some reformist Chogye leaders demanded that prior to the meeting, President Kim should make an apology and Home Minister Choe Hyong-u resign in connection with the violence at the Chogye temple," he said.

The official hinted that the administration would try to realize the meeting again once the inhouse situation of the Chogye order is put to an order.

Noting that dialogue is going on with Buddhist leaders in various channels, the official said that when an atmosphere is fostered through a dialogue, Buddhist leaders' meeting with the president will be materialized as a matter of course.

Government To Eliminate 'Lameness' of Officials

SK0905014294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—The government will hold a special meeting soon to discuss improving the attitude of public officials, with the emphasis on lifting morale rather than punishment, officials said Monday. Kim Yong-su, senior secretary for petition and information, is to chair the meeting, convened to point out problems caused by inefficient and overcautious government workers, officials said.

Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) Secretary-General Sin Tong- chin, Deputy Chief Prosecutor Song Chong-ui, National Tax Administrator Chief Chu Kyong-sok, National Police Chief Kim Hwa-nam and the chief assistant to the prime minister for administration coordination, Kim Si-hyong, are to attend. The meeting is expected to emphasize boosting the morale of public employees to get rid of "lameness" instead of imposing punishment, officials said.

Pardons During National Holidays Discontinued

SK0805061694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0551 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 8 (YONHAP)—There will be no special pardon for imprisoned criminals this year in commemoration of Buddha's birthday next week, the Justice Ministry said Sunday. The government will minimize the number of felons released from special amnesty granted during national holidays every year and refer the convicted criminals to the regular release on the 20th of every month, the Ministry said.

Ministry officials said the change is due to rising number of repeat offenses by those who have been released on holiday amnesty. There was also concern that the release of security law violators was weakening the seriousness of the law, they said.

Special holiday amnesty released approximately 100 more criminals than during monthly pardon. The change in government release is expected to reduce the number of pardoned criminals by 400 to 500 a year.

Officials Fired for Agricultural Boycott

SK0705041794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0339 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Choe In-ki sacked three officials Saturday, holding them responsible for the trouble caused by the recently introduced law on the distribution and price stabilization of agro-fishery products.

The three are Sin Sun-u, director-general of the Agricultural Marketing Bureau, Kim Chu-su, chief of the Planning and Budget Division, and Choe Pu-kwan, of the Market and Price Policy Division, according to the spokesman.

The three officials failed to devise measures to ensure the law's smooth execution and, therefore, took responsibility for the trouble in which thousands of middlemen at the Karak Agro-Fishery Wholesale Market paralyzed the distribution system by boycotting their business in protest against the revised law banning wholesale activities by middlemen, the spokesman said.

The three will lose their jobs unless they are reinstated within three months.

In a statement, Minister Choe instructed all ministry officials to develop agro-fishery industries, warning that he would severely punish those who fail to perform their jobs well.

Customs Reports Trade Deficit of $3 Billion

SK1205131294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1124 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade balance showed deficits of more than 3 billion dollars in the first four months of this year.

A trade trend released by the customs administration on Thursday indicated that in the January-April period, exports totaled 27,597 million dollars on a customs clearance basis and imports 30,606 million dollars to register 3,010 million dollars deficits.

Monthly trade deficits were 1,451 million dollars in January, 506 million dollars in February, 674 million dollars in March and 379 million dollars in April.

In exports in the four months, the shipment of chemical and heavy industrial products totaled 18,050 million dollars, up 14.2 percent over the corresponding period of last year, and that of light industrial goods 4,862 million dollars, a rise of 4.8 percent.

The imports of direct consumption goods amounted to 1,570 million dollars, a rise of 11.7 percent over a year before; those of industrial raw materials and fuel 15,733 million dollars, up 9.1 percent; those of capital goods 11,696 million dollars, an increase of 21 percent; and those of durable consumption goods 1,188 million dollars, an increase of 15.0 percent.

By country, trade with Hong Kong, Singapore and China recorded surpluses of 2,090 million, 709 million and 163 million dollars, respectively.

On the other hand, 402 million dollars deficits were registered in trade with the United States, 3,674 million dollars deficits with Japan, and 1,005 million dollars deficits with European countries.

Ruling Party Chairman Defends 1961 Coup

SK1305125494 Seoul YONHAP in English 1200 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 13 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-pil, chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, on Friday emphasized the "justness" of the May 16 military coup d'etat which toppled the popularly created John M. Chang administration in 1961.

Kim, the top brain behind the coup led by Maj. Gen. Pak Chong-hui, said he had joined the Army and staged the coup to realize his dream to create a strong country where people do not starve.

Saying that prior to the coup, Korea had a pitiful economy, so pitiful that a visiting U.S. senator described South Korea and the Philippines as suckers of American blood, Kim said he had engineered the military coup to bring about an economic development which he said is prerequisite to democracy.

In a lecture before the third graders of Yoi-do high school as a one-day teacher, Kim said that thanks to the coup he staged, the country could attain a food self-sufficiency in the 1960s and now people can make overseas trips freely.

He said some people speak as if everybody can successfully engineer an economic development. "In truth, it is not so, as you can see in the anecdote of Columbus's egg," he said.

Meanwhile, the United People's Party denounced Kim's remarks as a sophistry.

"We were astonished to learn that Kim made a far-fetched sophistry and self-centered argument about economic development before high school students," party spokesman Kim Su-il said.

Ruling Party Names New Party Spokesman

SK0705035594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party appointed Rep. Pak Pom-chin as its new spokesman on Saturday.

The party accepted resignations handed in by Spokesman Ha Sun-pong and three deputy spokesmen—Cho Yong-chik, O Chang-sop and Son Hak-kyu earlier in the day.

New deputy spokesmen are expected to be named on Monday.

Explaining the background of the change, DLP Secretary-General Mun Chong-su said, "Spokesman Ha expressed his intention to resign and the party accepted the resignations of Ha and the three deputy spokesmen to change the atmosphere in the spokesman's office."

Ha reportedly resigned assuming responsibility for the tension between the DLP and the Democratic Party created by his recent remarks that retired opposition leader Kim Tae-chung had covertly encouraged the opposition Democratic Party to adopt a hard-line stance toward the ruling party.

New DLP Spokesman Pak, 54, was born in Chechon-kun, North Chungchong Province, and graduated from the political science department at Seoul National University. He worked at the CHOSON ILBO and served as editorial writer for the SEOUL SINMUN.

Names New Deputy Spokesmen

SK0905031194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0242 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] appointed Rep. Kim Hyong-o and Song Op-kyo as new deputy spokesmen Monday while retaining Rep. Son Hak-kyu.

Kim, 47, is a graduate of Seoul National University with a bachelor's degree in diplomacy. He held the positions of reporter at the TONG-A ILBO, researcher at the Foreign Ministry's institute of foreign affairs and national security, assistant to the prime minister for political affairs and secretary to the president for political affairs.

Song, 53, majored in political science at Seoul National University. He was selected through the open employment system for the defunct Democratic Republican Party, was deputy director-general (D-G) for policy research at the former Korea National Party, deputy D-G for policy research at the former new Democratic Republican Party, and is currently deputy D-G for policy coordination for political affairs at the ruling camp.

The reshuffle follows Saturday's replacement of party spokesman Ha Sun-Pong with Rep. Pak Pom-chin.

14th Anniversary of Kwangju Uprising Marked

SK1705141694 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1225 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the 18 May Kwangju democratization movement, various rallies, attended by citizens and college students, were held throughout the country. A national meeting to inherit the spirit of the May resistance struggle was held in Chongmyo Park in Seoul under the auspices of the National Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification, and other rallies are being held at this moment in about 20 places across the country including college campuses. However, there is no report of clashes with police.

Kwangju Uprising Victims To File Legal Complaint

SK1205090694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0722 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Kwangju, May 12 (YONHAP)—Coinciding with the 14th anniversary of the "Kwangju civil uprising," a local group of victims of the bloody government suppression announced Thursday it would lodge a criminal complaint against former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and 33 others for alleged treason and homicide.

"Ominryon" told a news conference it would file the complaint with the Seoul district prosecutor's office Friday, adding that 321 victims of the May 18 civil uprising will be plaintiffs in the complaint.

"We decided to file the complaint against the 35 people because we considered it impossible to achieve true democratization and harmony in the country, as well as cherish the spirit of the May 18 civil uprising, without eliminating those forces who want to dilute the spirit of the uprising to maintain their vested interests," said an organization spokesman.

"The Kim Yong-sam government cannot achieve true reform unless it brings to light the true picture of the massacre during the uprising and takes judicial action against those responsible for the massacre," said the spokesman, criticizing a situation in which the victims themselves must take legal action. In the meantime, an organization of bereaved families of the uprising's victims said in a statement that the anniversary should become a national event, fostering a mood in which President Kim and government officials could visit Mangwoldong cemetery where those killed in the Kwangju civil uprising are buried.

Plans To Build Nuclear Waste Dump Protested

SK1205085894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0626 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Yangsan, May 12 (YONHAP)—Over 1,000 residents of Chang-an, a township near Pusan, staged a sit-in early Thursday morning against plans to build a nuclear waste dump in the township, blocking roads with machinery and tires. As a result, some 1,500 commuters were unable to report to work in Pusan and Ulsan, while employees of Kori atomic power station were kept from their jobs.

Some 500 protesting citizens blocked the road to the power plant at 6:00 a.m. to keep over 500 station employees from reporting for work, forcing those on the night shift to continue working. Station chief Pak Sang-ki asked the police to disperse the demonstrators, saying the sit-in protest would cause big trouble for the facility. In response, the police deployed 10 companies of 1,200 riot troopers near the station to prepare for any emergency. The protest also kept 760 primary and secondary school students from Chang-an away from their schools.

The sit-in was triggered by the Kori atomic power station's briefing on its nuclear waste dump construction plans at a meeting of 14 Yangsan County council members and citizens supporting the scheme in Chang-an on Wednesday afternoon. Around 8:40 p.m., angry residents gathered for a sit-in at the home of Sin Pong-cho, chairman of the Chang-an township development committee that supports construction of the nuclear waste dump. Sin's daughter-in-law, 29, fainted from shock at the sit-in protest against her father-in-law and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Burma

Reportage on SRV Prime Minister's Visit Continues

Agreements on Bilateral Trade Signed

BK1305152994 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] A ceremony for signing agreements between the Governments of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held at 1715 today at Hall D of the Seinle Kantha Guest House.

U Myo Min, director general of the Directorate of Hotel and Tourism Industry and Mr. Do Quang Trung, chairman of the Vietnam State Tourism General Department signed the agreement on cooperation in tourism between the governments of the Union of Myanmar and the SRV and exchanged the signed documents.

U Aung Thaung, deputy trade minister and the SRV deputy minister of trade signed the agreement on trade between the governments of the Union of Myanmar and the SRV and exchanged the signed documents.

Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw and SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam signed the agreement to establish a joint commission on cooperation between the governments of the Union of Myanmar and the SRV and exchanged the signed documents. The signing ceremony ended after the two foreign ministers raised a toast to lasting bilateral friendship.

Tours Mandalay, Pyint-oo-lwin

BK1305154394 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Vo Van Kiet, his wife, and entourage, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister U Nyunt Swe and party, left Yangon [Rangoon] in a special plane yesterday afternoon and arrived in Mandalay at 1614.

The visiting prime minister, his wife, and party arrived at the Nanmyo Guest House at 1630 and were warmly welcomed by Major General Kyaw Than, commander of the Central Commander. Later, the visiting prime minister, his wife and entourage toured the Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace inside the Mandalay Palace Grounds, Golden Palace Museum and Mandalay Hills and viewed Mandalay from the hill.

In the evening, Central Command Commander Maj. Gen. Kyaw Than hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting prime minister and his entourage.

This morning, the visiting prime minister and his entourage, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Kyaw Than visited Hong Kong Store, Defense Services Department Store, Chanmya Thazi, and a preview of the cooperative trade fair in Mandalay. The entourage lated visited Pyint-oo-lwin by car. Deputy Agriculture Minister U Tin Hlaing presented factory products to the visiting prime minister and his wife at Maymyo Silk Factory and gave the visitors a tour of the factory.

The local commander then hosted a luncheon in honor of the visiting prime minister and his entourage at the Military Guest House. The visiting minister and his entourage later visited the Botanical Gardens and the Military Academy. The delegation then left Pyint-oo-lwin by car for Mandalay and left Mandalay Airport at 1435 and arrived back in Yangon at 1610.

Joint Communique Released

BK1505095894 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] A joint communique has been issued at the conclusion of the visit of Mr. Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], to the Union of Myanmar [Burma]. The full text of the communique reads:

At the invitation of Senior General Than Shwe, prime minister of the Union of Myanmar, Mr. Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the SRV, paid an official visit to the Union of Myanmar from 11 May to 14 May 1994. Prime Minister of the SRV and Madame Vo Van Kiet were accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Madame Nguyen Manh Cam; Mr. Tran Hoan, minister of culture and information; Mr. Nguyen Quang Ha, minister of forestry; Lieutenant General Nguyen Thoi Bung, vice minister of national defense; Mr. Doan Manh Giao, vice chairman of the Government Office; Mr. Tran Van Tuyen, vice minister of commerce; Mr. Ngo Thi Doan, vice minister of agriculture and food industry; Mr. Nguyen Thuong Bang, vice minister of heavy industry; Mr. Do Quang Trung, chairman of the Vietnam Tourism Administration; Mr. Luu Van An, chairman of the People's Committee of Hue City; Mr. Tran Viet Tan, Vietnamese ambassador to Myanmar; Mr. Doan Thao, deputy director general of the Physical and Sports General Department; and high-ranking officials of the Government of the SRV.

Prime Minister and Madame Vo Van Kiet and their entourage were accorded a warm welcome by the government and the people of Myanmar, reflecting the traditionally friendly relations between the two countries. The prime minister expressed great pleasure in having the opportunity to visit the Union of Myanmar and conveyed to the people of Myanmar the cordial greetings and wishes of the Vietnamese people.

During their stay in Myanmar, Prime Minister and Madame Vo Van Kiet and their entourage visited places of cultural and historical interests in Yangon [Rangoon] and Mandalay. They also had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the progress and transformation taking place in Myanmar in the areas of agriculture and urban development.

The prime minister of the SRV paid a call on and had talks with Prime Minister Sr. Gen. Than Shwe. The two prime ministers had a friendly exchange of views on matters of mutual interests and current regional and international issues. The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding. Present at the meeting with Prime Minister Sr. Gen. Than Shwe and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet were: General Maung Aye, vice chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]; Lt. Gen. Tin Tun, deputy prime minister; Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC; Lt. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of the SLORC; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; U Aye, Myanmar ambassador to the SRV; Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs; Mr. Tran Hoan, minister of culture and information; Mr. Nguyen Quang Ha, minister of forestry; Lt. Gen. Nguyen Thoi Bung, vice minister of national defense; Mr. Doan Manh Giao, vice chairman of the Government Office; Mr. Tran Van Tuyen, vice minister of commerce; Mr. Ngo Thi Doan, vice minister of agriculture and food industry; Mr. Nguyen Thuong Bang, vice minister of heavy industry; Mr. Do Quang Trung, chairman of the Vietnam Tourism Administration; Mr. Luu Van An, chairman of the People's Committee of Hue City; Mr. Tran Viet Tan, Vietnamese ambassador to Myanmar; and Mr. Doan Thao, deputy director general of the Physical and Sports General Department.

Lt. Gen. Tin Tun, deputy prime minister, and Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC, paid separate calls on Mr. Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the SRV. The Myanmar side acquainted the visiting prime minister with the emerging constitutional, political, economic, and social changes taking place in the country and with the efforts to secure national reconciliation. The Myanmar side reaffirmed its independent and active foreign policy based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence and its active participation in the nonaligned movement. The Vietnamese side informed the Myanmar side of the comprehensive reform policy and the achievements recorded as well as the measures aimed at bringing the country into the new stage of development by gradually realizing industrialization and modernization. The Vietnamese side also reported on its independent sovereign, and opened and diversified foreign policy. The Myanmar side highly appreciated the reform policy and the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people and wished the Vietnamese people many new successes in their noble cause. The two sides reaffirmed that the people of each country has the right to freely choose their own political, economic, and social system according to their needs, tradition, and culture and agreed to continue their cooperation in upholding these principles. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet highly valued the efforts of the government and the people of Myanmar to achieve economic development and social progress and expressed his wishes for the success of these endeavors.

During the talks between the two foreign ministers, current political and economic development in the region were reviewed with emphasis on bilateral and regional cooperation. Separate talks at ministerial level of industrial, agricultural, forestry, commercial, cultural, physical and sports, and tourism affairs were also held. They agreed to promote cooperation in the respective fields between the two countries. The following agreements were signed after the talks:

1. agreement on the establishment of a joint commission for bilateral cooperation,
2. trade agreement and
3. agreement on tourism cooperation.

Lt. Gen. Nguyen Thoi Bung, vice minister of national defense, also called on Lt. Gen. Tin U, chief of the No.1 Special Operation Bureau and chief of staff of the Army. The two sides reaffirmed their desire to promote cooperation in the economic, environmental, cultural, tourism, agricultural, forestry, educational, and scientific field as well as in the fight against narcotic drugs. In the field of transport both sides agreed on specific steps to be taken to establish direct airline service between Myanmar and Vietnam at the earliest possible date.

The two prime ministers expressed their satisfaction on the successful visit of Mr. Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the SRV, and his delegation to the Union of Myanmar, which significantly contributed to the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. They welcomed the opportunity provided by the visit to renew personal contacts. Prime Minister of the SRV and Madame Vo Van Kiet conveyed their sincere thanks to Prime Minister and Madame Than Shwe for the warm and friendly hospitality provided to them and the entourage during the visit. The prime minister of the SRV and Madame Vo Van Kiet also extended an invitation to Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar and Madame Than Shwe to visit the SRV at a mutual convenient time, and the invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Ends Visit, Leaves Rangoon

BK1405151794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Mr. Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], his wife, and entourage, who were paying a goodwill visit since 11 May at the invitation of Senior General Than Shwe, prime minister of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], left Yangon [Rangoon] by a special airplane this afternoon.

Prime Minister Mr. Vo Van Kiet and entourage were seen off at Yangon airport by Prime Minister Sr. Gen. Than Shwe and his wife; General Maung Aye, vice chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], and his wife; Lieutenant General Tin Tun, deputy prime minister, and his wife; Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC; Lt. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of the SLORC, and his wife; Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt, minister of religious affairs; Brigadier General Myo Thant, minister of information; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs, and his wife; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and his wife; U Aye, Myanmar ambassador to the SRV, and his wife; Mr. Tran Viet Tan, ambassador of the SRV to the Union of Myanmar; high-ranking diplomats from the foreign missions; and members of the SRV Embassy.

The visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Vo Van Kiet, his wife, and entourage visited the oil refinery in Syraim and Dagon University this morning. The visiting prime minister and entourage, accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe and party, arrived at the guest house of the Syriam Oil Refinery at 0820. They were welcomed by U Khin Maung Thein, minister of energy; U Tin Tun, deputy minister of energy; and responsible personnel. The visiting prime minister, his wife, and entourage then looked around the oil refinery and left the refinery at 0930. Then they proceeded to the Dagon University in North Dagon Myothit. After visiting the campus, they left the university at 1130.

Tin U Receives SRV Deputy Defense Minister

BK1405154294 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Tin U, chief of staff of the Army of the Ministry of Defense, received visiting Lt. Gen. Nguyen Thoi Bung, deputy miniter of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at the Ministry of Defense's Dagon House of the at 0900 this morning.

Rear Admiral Tin Aye, chief of staff of the Navy; Major General Tin Ngwe, chief of staff of the Air Force; and Training Director Brigadier General Saw Lwin were also present at the meeting.

SLORC Journal Said To Criticize Thai Royalty

BK1605115094 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 15 May 94

["Article" by (R. J. Strider) and Pyone Cho]

[Text] The February issue of MYETKHIN THIT journal, published by the intelligence service of SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], contains language detrimental to the prestige of Thai Crown Princess Mahachakri Sirinthon, and has caused embarrassment to the SLORC.

On page 135 of issue no. 46 is an article in the form of a dialogue between a Vietnamese national, (Nguyen Nge) and a Burmese national, (Saw Indei). The dialogue contains terms insulting to Thai Princess Mahachakri Sirinthon, daughter of the Thai king. It makes references to Mahachakri Sirinthon being world-famous for being born as a daughter of the Thai king. It contains references saying that had she been born of a (?Burmese) peasant, Sirinthon may well have been a prostitute.

The same article says prostitution has become a traditional source of livelihood in Thailand and that Thailand is achieving a high standard of living through prostitution and that the revolutionary trait has disappeared. If such a rude reference had been made to the daughter of the Thai king in Thailand, there would certainly be charges of lese majeste and harsh punishment.

Such an article could not have been published without official authorization in Burma, where there are strict censorship rules and the Army strictly controls the publication of journals. MYETKHIN THIT has been published by the SLORC since 1990 and has been used to blatantly attack democratic forces inside and outside the country, political leaders, foreign countries, and Western diplomats.

Po Kan Kaung's article in the February issue of MYETKHIN THIT journal has surprised many Burmese observers because relations between Thailand and Burma have been good. Thailand, which has been enjoying special privileges in timber and fishery concessions, has been opposing international efforts to isolate the SLORC. Lately, the SLORC, which has been expanding economic relations with other countries, including Singapore, has accused Thai businessmen of illegal fishing and logging.

It is possible that the article, which contains crude language, may well reflect the SLORC government's displeasure with the Thais. The article also contains references that could damage the prestige of the Thai military. The article says that since the end of World War II, Thailand has been instrumental in spreading U.S. imperialism in Southeast Asia, and that the Thai Armed Forces have been under the patronage of the U.S. Army. While the Burmese and the Vietnamese Defense Services were discharging their national duty, the Thai Armed Forces lacked revolutionary characteristics.

Despite the allegations made by MYETKHIN THIT, there has been a surprising lack of reaction from the Thai Armed Forces and entrepreneurs.

According to one source, although Thai military intelligence obtained the article, they suppressed the report to prevent it from leaking to the Thai public. It can be seen that although the Burmese generals are insulting the prestige of Thailand, Thai military officials are remaining silent over the matter for their own self-interest.

Deputy Prime Minister Meets Thai Delegation

BK1705013794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Sathaphon Kawitanon, secretary general of the Thai Board of Investment [BoI], and a delegation of Thai entrepreneurs, accompanied by the Thai ambassador and attache, called on Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Myanmar [Burma] Investment Committee, at the committee office this morning. They held cordial and frank talks on bilateral economic cooperation and investment opportunities.

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From South Africa

BK1505142994 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, deputy prime minister of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, returned to Yangon [Rangoon] airport this evening after attending the swearing in ceremony for the new president of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela, held in Pretoria on 10 May 1994.

In Pretoria, the leader of the Myanmar delegation presented the congratulatory message from Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, to President Nelson Mandela at the Presidential residence on 11 May.

Indian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Concludes Visit

BK1305142894 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] A delegation led by General Bipin Chandra Joshi, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Republic of India and chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and his wife left Yangon [Rangoon] International Airport in a special plane at 1100 today at the end of their visit to Myanmar [Burma].

Gen. Bipin Chandra Joshi, his wife, and delegation were seen off at the airport by General Maung Aye, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services and commander in chief of the Army, and his wife; Lt. Gen. Tin U, commander of the No. 1 Special Tactical Command and chief of staff of Army, and his wife; Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon Command, and his wife; Brigadier General Than U, judge advocate general; senior military officials from the Ministry of Defense; Mr. Gopalaswani Parthasarathy; Colonel (P. C. Braradras), military attache; and responsible officials.

Yunnan Governor, Economic Delegation Arrives

BK1705043294 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] A seven-member delegation from the People's Republic of China led by Mr. He Zhiqiang, governor of Yunnan Province, arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] by air from Bangkok this afternoon.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Brigadier General Abel, minister for national planning and economic development; responsible officials; Mr. Liang Feng, PRC ambassador to Myanmar [Burma]; and embassy staff.

The delegation led by Yunnan provincial governor is accompanied by an 18-member economic cooperation mission comprising members of economic enterprises in Yunnan Province.

The delegation and the economic cooperation mission will visit Myanmar from 16 to 24 May and hold talks on economic cooperation between Myanmar and Yunnan Province.

Minister Brig. Gen. Abel hosted a dinner in honor of the Yunnan Province governor's delegation and economic cooperation mission at the People's Park Restaurant.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Stresses ICO Participation on Bosnia Issue

BK1605153794 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1032 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 16 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Monday, reiterated Malaysia's stand that the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) should be a party to any peace initiatives on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Our stand is firm and consistent with the wishes of Bosnia-Herzegovina itself, he told reporters at the international airport in Subang, near here, on his return from the Malaysia-Mauritius joint commission meeting.

He was commenting on a report that several European countries had excluded the OIC in their efforts to end the conflict in Bosnia, where Muslims are facing ethnic cleansing by the Serbs.

Abdullah said Bosnia-Herzegovina had emphasised at a recent UN Security Council meeting that it would only accept any peace process which involved the OIC.

On the OIC contact group's decision that the OIC was prepared to fill the void created by any withdrawal of UN peacekeepers in Bosnia, he said Malaysia's stand was clear in that it would continue to help the country defend its sovereignty and independence.

We definitely support the group's decision. Any OIC efforts that are beneficial to Bosnia-Herzegovina will have our support, he said.

He said Malaysia welcomed the U.S. Senate committee's decision asking for a lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We sincerely hope that the lifting of the embargo will be done in the true sense of the word without any condition, he said.

'About 100' Vietnamese Refugees Return Home

BK1405111294 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 May 94 p 8

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.—After five years in Malaysia, about 100 Vietnamese refugees, who were not accepted by any third country, left for Ho Chi Minh City today under the voluntary repatriation program.

So far, 3,054 Vietnamese illegal immigrants had voluntarily returned home since the programme began three years ago, leaving 6,820 boat people at the Sungei Besi camp.

The returnees expressed enthusiasm about heading home as many felt the Vietnamese economy was brighter. Pham Phu Cong, 30, wants to return to his tailoring work. "My wife and I are happy to return as we are both in the tailoring line and want to start building a future for ourselves," said this father of one.

Singapore

Trade Ministry Issues Optimistic Growth Forecast

BK1605161994 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Singapore's economic growth this year is expected to be at the higher end of the 6 to 8 percent forecast by the government last November. The Ministry of Trade and Industry said the continued expansion in the U.S. economy and the strong growth in developing countries will have a favorable effect on Singapore's trade. The ministry made its optimistic forecast in its latest quarterly economic survey. The survey showed that the economy expanded by a higher than expected 11 percent in the first quarter of this year, exceeding earlier forecasts of between 9 and 10 percent. It forecast the 10.7 percent growth in the first quarter of last year and the 9.9 percent recorded for the whole of 1993.

Growth was mainly fueled by the exceptionally strong performance in the manufacturing sector and the financial and business and services sectors. Manufacturing output expanded 11.9 percent in the first quarter over the same period in 1993, boosted by a strong external demand. The electronic, machinery, and transport equipment industries also experienced strong growth. The financial and business sector expanded by 14 percent, while the construction sector by a strong 10.8 percent. The commerce sector expanded by 9.1 percent, and the transport and communication sector grew just under 10 percent.

Total volume of trade continued to expand in the first quarter, growing by 14 percent. Exports grew by 12 percent, while imports increased by 9.6 percent. Non-oil domestic exports rose by 13 percent, nearly doubling the growth in the first quarter of last year.

The number of jobs created in the first quarter, however, was lower than that in the previous quarter. Labor productivity grew some 6 percent, unchanged from the previous sector.

Inflation rose 3.2 percent compared to the same quarter last year.

Statistics Show 9.9% Economic Growth Achieved

BK1505122294 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 15 94

[Text] The Singapore economy expanded by 9.9 percent last year compared with 6 percent in 1992. Financial and business services was the fastest growing sector, expanding by 13 percent. The Department of Statistics also revealed that, compared to the past 10 years, prices of private property in 1993 rose by a record 24 percent.

Prices of land and houses alone shot up 41 percent compared with 15 percent in 1992.

The department also found that more middle-aged people are in the labor force compared with 10 years ago and a proportion of the elderly aged 60 years and above was also greater compared with 10 years ago. The number of elderly also increased at a faster rate than the general population.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge on U.S. Ability To Save SRV 'Puppets'

BK1705053294 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] It is reported that the United States has ordered Sar Kheng, the cheap lackey puppet of the communist Vietnamese, to go urgently to America. What is the purpose of the U.S. order?

It is widely known that Sar Kheng is the arch traitor of the nation, the cheap lackey of the communist Vietnamese, and the most cruel and fascist agent of the communist Vietnamese. He is also part of the most corrupt and stinking clique. Sar Kheng is also a member of the communist party, a puppet of the communist Vietnamese, the head of the security forces, and a murderer who suppressed, arrested, and killed scores of Cambodian people for 15 years from 1979 to the present time. His crimes are extremely serious.

As the communist Vietnamese's lackey, puppet, and instrument, he destroyed the Cambodian nation and people to turn Cambodia into a second Kampuchea Kraom, thereby eliminating the Cambodian race. How many Cambodian people have already been killed by the communist Vietnamese puppets Sar Kheng, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen and the communist Vietnamese? To what extent have those puppets allowed the communist Vietnamese to swallow Cambodia's terrestrial and maritime territory and islands? How many million ethnic Vietnamese have they allowed to flow into Cambodia? How far have they turned our Cambodian society upside down? How bad have the four or five million Vietnamese oppressed the Cambodian society and people? And how destructive have they plundered Cambodia's land, lakes, small and big rivers, fish, and forests?

The entire Cambodian nation and people reject and condemn the communist Vietnamese lackeys because of their actions, which betray the nation, sell out the nation, and destroy the nation and people. Now they have fallen into the abyss of death. They are agonizing; their days are numbered.

How far can the communist Vietnamese puppets survive with U.S. aid and arms supply? How can the puppets be saved when the U.S. ringleader and its alliance have not been able to rescue their own son [Ranariddh's party]? How can they save the rotten one-eyed (?puppet) of the communist Vietnamese when they are so rotten and stinking and have been opposed and condemned by the people? The communist Vietnamese have striven to cure the rotten puppets for 14 or 15 years, but in vain. They still remain decomposed and remain at death's door.

The only effective treatment is to achieve national reconciliation, national unity, and genuine peace.

SRV's Readiness To Negotiate Border Welcomed

BK1705063994 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 May 94

[Political commentary: "A Stand Worthy of Welcome and Support"]

[Text] AFP on 13 May cited the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman saying that the Vietnamese Government was ready for peaceful negotiations on border problems between the two neighboring countries on the basis of mutual respect for independence and territorial integrity.

This statement from Vietnam came after King Norodom Sihanouk was quoted by the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW from an interview he gave to the magazine on 11 May as accusing Vietnam of moving the border postings deep inside Cambodia and digging canals inside the country.

Cambodia and Vietnam share a common terrestrial border of 1,130 kilometers and the border problem has been a bone of contention between the two countries since the French colonialists left Indochina in the 1950's.

The border disputes between the two countries have remained outstanding. Moreover, there have been rumors that Vietnam has moved border markers into Cambodian territory in the Cambodian provinces bordering Vietnam on the west.

It should be recalled that during Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's official visit to Cambodia last April, the two countries agreed to create an expert team to discuss and solve their land border conflict.

Vietnam, like Thailand, is a signatory to the Paris 23 October 1991 accord. According to the accord's provisions, the two countries should respect Cambodia's territorial integrity and national unity and restrain themselves from interfering in the country's internal affairs. Following the establishment of the National Assembly and the formation of the Royal Government of Cambodia through the elections organized by the United Nations in May 1993, the Cambodian Constitution defined Cambodia's border in accordance with the 1/100,000 map of the 1960's. Nevertheless, border issues in the eastern and western parts of Cambodia remain unsettled, resulting in endless conflicts and accusations.

With goodwill to achieve peace, security, and have good neighborliness, which contributes to restoring peace and security and promoting cooperation in the region as well as reinforcing world peace, the Cambodian people wish to enthusiastically welcome the aforementioned stance of the SRV Government and call on other neighbors of Cambodia to follow the fine example. Moreover, words and actions should move concurrently.

PDK Condemns Evans' Statement on Arming Phnom Penh

BK1705052194 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 May 94

[Statement from Party of Democratic Kampuchea Spokesman dated 16 May; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I. Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has of late, openly and shamelessly declared that arms should be shipped to the two-headed government to further fan the flames of war against the Khmer Rouge. He has added that the shipping of arms to the two-headed government to fight the Khmer Rouge complies with the Paris accord.

II. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] wishes to ask the representatives of the signatory countries of the Paris accord whether the Australian foreign minister's statement is correct or contrary to the essence and spirit of the accord.

A. The Paris accord has already come to an end. However, if the accord is to be taken into consideration, it is asked whether the accord allows any country or power to provide arms to Cambodia and whether it has urged or incited any party to attack another party. No, not at all.

On the contrary, the Paris accord:
1. Forbids arms supply to every party;
2. Clearly stipulates that Cambodia should have four parties that are all equal and that no party should have the upper hand.
3. According to the essence and spirit of the accord, Cambodia should achieve national reconciliation, national unity, and genuine peace.

B. It is asked whether Gareth Evans' statement is correct or completely contrary to international law, the UN Charter, the principle of noninterference in other countries' internal affairs, and the respect for human rights and the rights to self-determination of each people. Is the Australian foreign minister's statement in line with or contrary to the above principles? Evidently, the provision of arms to the two-headed government is to allow the communist Vietnamese and their puppets to continue to destroy the Cambodian nation, people, and race. So will this action promote peace or just inflame the war? Will it alleviate the sufferings of the nation and people or only destroy the Cambodian nation and people?

III. It is obvious the Evans statement is to inflame the war in Cambodia. It is an utterance by warmongers who use the Cambodians serving as the communist Vietnamese and American puppets to attack patriotic Cambodians, to oppose peace, national reconciliation, and national compromise, and to fan the flames of war across Cambodia.

This is aimed at causing continued suffering to the Cambodian people and concern to Cambodia's neighbors, thus once again complicating the situation in Southeast Asia. The action by Australia and other unscrupulous alliances is in collaboration with the communist Vietnamese to enable the latter to swallow and eliminate the Cambodian race, thereby allowing all of them to grab at Cambodia according to their disgusting, vested interests.

IV. The Cambodian nation and people as well as Democratic Kampuchea vehemently oppose the (?dirty) statement by the atheist warmonger Gareth Evans and the arms supplies to destroy the Cambodian nation and people.

[Dated] 16 May 1994
[Signed] Party of Democratic Kampuchea spokesman

More Power for King Not Favored by Ministers

BK1705081394 Bangkok BANGKOK POST (INSIDE INDOCHINA Supplement) in English 17 May 94 p 2

[By Jean de Toulkork]

[Text] Contrary to a Cambodian newspaper report, senior ministers of the Cambodian government are not in favour of amending the constitution to enable King Norodom Sihanouk to enjoy full power for a limited time.

There is no support for the idea in the ruling FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party of First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh, according to party sources.

A well-placed source in the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] that is the political umbrella of Second Prime Minister Hun Sen said the party would listen to the proposal, be polite, but completely ignore it.

But the coalition government is having trouble administering the country and there is bickering among members of the royalist FUNCINPEC party.

In the provinces, the newly appointed provincial governors of FUNCINPEC find themselves blocked by an administration controlled by the CPP. As the governor of one of the country's largest provinces recently pointed out: "I advance one step and then go three backward. Everything I try to do is blocked by my deputy who used to be the CPP's previous governor."

In the capital, Phnom Penh, things are not much better. The only ministry that seems to be working in a coordinated fashion is the ministry of finance because FUNCINPEC's Sam Rangsi is related to his CPP deputy, Cham Prasit.

The national assembly has been paralysed since the CPP decided to get it to approve the re-admission of Prince Norodom Chakkrapong and Sin Son, a former national security minister, both of whom were involved in the short-lived secession of seven Cambodian provinces immediately after the May 1993 elections.

Important legislation for Cambodia's future remains blocked until the impasse over Chakkrapong and Sin Son can be solved. A formula has now been proposed by which the order of the agenda of the assembly's meetings will be changed to allow the passage of at least some legislation.

King Sihanouk has been giving recent visitors a very sombre picture of today's Cambodia and has strongly criticised the leaders of the royal government for not looking after the interests of the people.

At the same time, he has said that many people have asked him to try to redress the situation.

In public, the king says he is too old, in bad health and does not have the team that can take control of the situation and stop Cambodia from "sinking like the Titanic".

In fact, the ailing king is said to think otherwise. But he would need an ally in the CPP, which continues to control the country even though FUNCINPEC won, by however small a margin, the United Nations organised elections a year ago.

In the light of this political imperative, and in view of the king's cooler relations with Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, insiders point to the monarch's recent repeated praise for Chea Sim, the CPP strongman.

Chea Sim and his wife visited the king in Peking in March but little is known of their discussions apart from Chea Sim's expression of deep concern over events in Cambodia.

Even if Sihanouk were to form an alliance with Chea Sim by which the king is given certain but not full powers, the question would remain as to what to do with the Khmer Rouge insurgency.

Would Chea Sim allow the king to give some posts to some Khmer Rouge officials? The other question that concerns many Cambodians is what kind of powers the CPP would grant to the king and how the party administration would react to the new arrangement.

The call for new elections made by the king last week has not been taken seriously by any of the parties concerned and the issue appears dead. Sihanouk is now retreating to Peking, from where he will observe events in Cambodia, and perhaps hope that a call will come for him to save the "ship Kampuchea" from sinking, through a new and last royal crusade.

Interior Minister Says Demonstration Cancelled

BK1705015194 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 May 94

[Message from Interior Minister Yu Hokkri—recorded]

[Text] My respects to the two supreme patriarchs, all venerable monks, and my beloved compatriots:

I, Yu Hokkri, minister of the interior, would like to present the following announcement from the Interior Ministry:

In compliance with the message dated 15 May of His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, revered king of the

Kingdom of Cambodia, in which he appealed to all brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to not hold the demonstration on 16 and 17 May so as to avoid any incidents which might bring about adverse consequences that will further complicate the solution that we are seeking for our motherland through peaceful means in line with Lord Buddha's teachings, Venerable Monk (Vichea Ratanapannha Wilson) and (Sit Kosangsin), representatives of the Kampuchea Kraom Buddhist Association, and the Cambodian Youth Association have decided to cancel their planned demonstration.

At the same time, a group of people have distributed false letters calling on the public to join demonstrations or meetings on 17 May in the name of the two associations mentioned above.

Venerable Monk (Vichea Ratanapannha Wilson) and (Sit Kosangsin) have rejected any undertaking that run counter to the wish and desire of the revered his majesty the king, who is the father of national peace.

The Interior Ministry would like to stress also that until now, the ministry has not received any new requests for holding the demonstration.

It is with the goal of ensuring security and public order that I would like your venerable personages and the public to please be informed.

Thank you.
Issued in Phnom Penh on 16 May 1994

Ministry Introduces Tax To Control Land Prices

BK1705101794 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 15-21 May 94 p 14

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Phnom Penh—The Ministry of Economics and Finance has introduced taxes aimed at curbing the spiraling land prices here.

The proposed land tax is composed of 3 sub-taxes. These are, a tax on undeveloped land bought for purposes of speculation, a tax on land price increases and a tax on capital assets.

The objective of the first tax is to "eliminate the buying and selling of land which is causing land prices to rise, leading to problems for foreign investors", according to a ministerial statement.

"In particular, the intention is to make owners of such unused land pay taxes to the state, or encourage them to sell or rent their land to businessmen looking for a base for their industrial or commercial operations," the statement added.

The rate of this tax would rise progressively in proportion to the time over which the land stays undeveloped. For example, the state would tax two per cent on the cost price of the land for the first year and thereby increase this by two per cent each year, so that by the fifth year, owners of undeveloped land would have to pay 10 per cent of the land's cost price.

The second tax, which is aimed at discouraging the rise in land prices, that is owned privately and by commercial companies.

For land owned by private individuals, this land tax rate would be the same as that levied for personal income. That is, 10 per cent to 30 per cent on the profit gained on the land at the time of resale.

In the case of commercial companies, profits on land sales would be taxed the same rate as for other profits, at 20 per cent.

The tax on capital assets has been confined by the Ministry to a yearly tax levied on the third house, or more, owned by a private individual in a town.

The tax, with a rate of two to three per cent of the estimated market price of the house, is designed not to penalise farmers or those living in the countryside.

The system of land taxes is welcome news for investors, especially the tax on undeveloped land bought for purposes of speculation. The recent visit of the business delegation from Malaysia highlighted the problem of escalating land prices and the lack of industrial parks for setting up labour-intensive industries.

Businessmen pointed out that the favourable conditions created for investment and sustained by agencies like the Cambodia Development Council would be crippled by the unavailability of competitively priced land. This includes not only the kingdom's capital but outlying urban centres like Sihanoukville.

However, some observers say that the taxes are not differentiated enough, especially the tax charged on land speculation. Investors might need to hold on to land until conditions are deemed more propitious for developing it, given the security situation.

The solution would lie in the comprehensive nature of the new tax regime introduced by Sam Rangsi's Ministry. These include the Salaries Tax, the Tax on Construction Licenses and the Profits Tax on import-export companies. Their overall objective is to "broaden the revenue base which is at present heavily dependent on customs duties, particularly those levied on reexports".

The Minister has already declared that the objective of the tax reforms is to achieve a more balanced distribution between direct and indirect taxation, and to avoid over-reliance on customs revenue.

Most of the foreign companies in the kingdom indicate their presence here as involving commercial and social obligations. Their projections for rates of return are based on medium-term and longterm investment strategies.

The reform of the customs' systems and its fiscal structure has already managed to increase government revenue eightfold. This has allowed the government to fund its public sector deficit without having to demonetise the currency. It has also allowed the control of the previous runaway inflation.

The new tax regime is aimed at further stabilising the economic environment towards encouraging investment possibilities.

Indonesia

Summit Meeting With New Zealand Held in Jakarta

Suharto, Bolger Discuss East Timor

BK1605163994 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpt] Indonesia and New Zealand have agreed that New Zealand deputies need to visit Indonesia. Minister and State Secretary Murdiono said this when he briefed reporters on the results of talks between President Suharto and Prime Minister Jim Bolger in Jakarta this morning. He said the two leaders agreed that such visits would be beneficial. The minister said Bolger did not bring a petition on East Timor from New Zealand deputies. The prime minister simply asked the president about East Timor. Suharto said the East Timor people had decided to be part of Indonesia. Any resistance to the East Timor people's strong wish to remain part of Indonesia will be categorized as an act to undermine national security.

According to Murdiono, the two leaders also touched on matters to be discussed by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] forum. [passage omitted on Mrs. Bolger's social acitivities in Jakarta]

New Zealand's Contacts With Asia Hailed

BK1705021794 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Indonesia welcomes New Zealand's endeavors in bringing peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. New Zealand's contributions toward such measures was observed through its active participation in the settlement of numerous conflicts—such as the conflicts in Cambodia, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, and others. This was stated by President Suharto during at dinner tonight in honor of the visiting state guest, the New Zealand prime minister James Bolger and his wife at the state palace in Jakarta.

He stated that the Government of Indonesia also welcomed New Zealand's efforts to have closer contacts with the Southeast Asian nations, particularly with Indonesia. In this regard, the head of state expressed hope that New Zealand would actively participate in the Asian regional fora where consultations on political and security issues on Southeast Asia are discussed.

Touching on other issues, President Suharto stressed that relations between Indonesia and New Zealand have improved in recent years due to the exchange of visits by high-level officials of the two countries aimed at fostering greater mutual trust and understanding.

Meanwhile, New Zealand Prime Minister James Bolger said that Indonesia had played an important role in the Cambodian peace process. As the current chairman of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC], Indonesia has agreed to host the upcoming historic meeting for leaders of the Asia-Pacific nations in November. Prime Minister James Bolger also stated that his country would support Indonesia in its campaign to secure a seat in the United Nations Security Council during the 1995-96 session.

Prior to the dinner, the two leaders exchanged souvenirs at the foyer of the state palace. President Suharto presented a gilded Balinese traditional kris [dagger] and a silk shirt to his guest. Meanwhile, Mrs Tien Suharto presented a (?silver) tea set and a piece of silk cloth to Mrs. Bolger. Mr. and Mrs, Bolger presented a gilded wall decoration to President Suharto and his wife.

Vice President Sutrisno, his wife, cabinet minister, other high- ranking officials and their wives also attended tonight's dinner.

Bolger's Visit Editorialized

BK1705105094 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 17 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] PELITA and KOMPAS comment on the significance of the visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger to Indonesia. PELITA notes that Bolger's visit is a bit cloudy because a handful of New Zealand deputies had issued a petition on human rights in East Timor. The matter, however, is not expected to become a major irritant. The petition appeared to have stemmed from their lack of understanding and knowledge about developments in East Timor. Accordingly, we need to conduct self-assessment as to what extent we have provided them with information about the true situation in East Timor. PELITA is confident that they will acknowledge that what East Timor has achieved is the best in the course of its history if they understand the true situation in the province.

KOMPAS offers a similar comment. The petition of the New Zealand deputies arose from inaccurate information or was influenced by the controversial film "Death of A Nation." According to KOMPAS, it would be good if a proposal for exchanging parliamentary visits is implemented. The New Zealand deputies will thus be able to make a fair judgment of the situation in East Timor after seeing the province by themselves. KOMPAS is confident that Bolger's visit is intended to enhance the friendship between the two nations—a friendship based on an understanding of each other's problems and assistance in the time of need.

Alatas Speaks Out Against Manila Timor Conference

BK1705055694 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1800 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Jakarta, May 16 (ANEX-ANTARA)—Indonesia hopes that an international conference on East Timor scheduled to be organized in Manila later this month will not go through because its aims do not accord with the Philippine Government's understanding of the East Timor problem, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here Monday.

Alatas made the statement at a press conference following a meeting with Philippine President Fidel Ramos' special envoy, Raul Manglapus, who had come to Jakarta to explain Manila's position towards the privately sponsored conference.

"We still believe there is a way to solve the issue," Alatas said.

He said although the Philippine Government's commitment to its national constitution and freedom of speech was understandable, Indonesia was disappointed that the conference would still take place.

He said in Indonesia's view the planned conference was not an academic exercise nor an event to promote democracy. Neither would it be discussing human rights in the Asia-Pacific region in general as its organizers had at the beginning claimed.

"It is certainly a political campaign against Indonesia," he stressed.

"The name of the conference is Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor. How could they (the organizers) say that it will deal with human rights or democratization in the region," he said.

Alatas said Indonesia was suspecting that Ramos Horta, Cecillia Jimenez, and Renato Constantino—diehard opponents to East Timor's integration with Indonesia—were behind the planned conference.

"Claiming to be representing some obscure non-governmental organizations, they are trying to make the East Timor issue an Asia- Pacific concern," he said.

Alatas warned that both Indonesia's and the Philippines' national interests would be affected if the conference went on as scheduled by its sponsors.

Previously, Raul Manglapus had said it was difficult for the Philippine Government to prevent the conference from being held.

"The conference is scheduled to be held in one of the universities in Manila. Some universities in my country have a certain autonomy and that's why it is difficult for us to prevent them from staging any academic event," he added.

He said the Philippine Government fully supported Indonesia's effort to protect its territorial integrity.

"Moreover, we have long-standing bilateral ties and live in the spirit of ASEAN," he said.

He said the Philippine Government was determined to take any step necessary to prevent the conference from causing any damage to its ties with Indonesia.

When asked whether or not he would visit Indonesia again if his government failed to prevent the holding of the conference, Manglapus said: "It depends on how angry your country is."

"But I am hopeful that after this meeting there will be understanding on both sides. And, at least, the Philippine Government will do its best to prevent any damage (to the ties between the two countries)," said the former Philippines foreign minister.

Daily Doubts Immediate Change in Wage System

BK1405142694 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 4 May 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Again, The Worker Problem"]

[Text] President Suharto's call the other day for higher industrial wages may sound like music to many laborer's ears. "The wage system should not widen the social gap," the President said in seminar, jointly organized by the Ministry of Manpower and the International Labor Organization.

Suharto cautiously added that wages should not rise so high as to damage the competitiveness of the Indonesian economy, which benefits from cheap labor.

The question is, will or can the President's call be realized and enforced in the near future? Given the many experiences in the past in which many laws remain unenforced, it is understandable enough if one is doubtful that the fate of our workers will drastically change for the better soon.

Even after the Medan incident last month in which widespread labor protests turned into anti-Chinese rioting, one should not expect any immediate change for our worker's lives. Yes, now all parties involved have pledged to improve the welfare of our workers. But, we can see that as long as the government's basic perception of the labor problem prevails, it will hamper a speedy cure of the existing ills.

Many of us are inclined to believe that low wages and unfair treatment of workers are the main factors which have triggered most of the current labor disputes. But, suppose that these two factors have been improved is there any guarantee that it will cure our labor problems? Frankly, we doubt it.

For one thing, labor is perhaps the most neglected sector in our development program. We can boast of our successes in development, citing impressive statistics. Yet, what is the position of our workers at this stage? Have they received the slice of our development pie that rightly belongs to them?

We are afraid the answer is "No." The source of the evil is, perhaps, our traumatic experience with the communist-dominated labor movement prior to he abortive communist coup of 1965, which apparently continues to haunt many of our officials and causes the government to follow policy which strictly controls the labor movement and gives low priority to the education of the labor force.

Coupled with the government industrialization policy, which inclined to side with the employer, the result is a disaster for our workers. For more than 20 years there has practically been no serious, comprehensive policy to tackle our labor problems.

The figures speak for themselves. According to 1990 data, more than 76 percent of our workforce is comprised of people with only elementary school educations. About 39 percent of our unemployed, a staggering 38 percent of the population, are elementary or secondary school graduates.

No wonder the majority of our workers belong to the lowest strata of our society. Poorly educated and lacking in training, most of them are helpless and have no bargaining power in dealing with their employers. Aside from that, most of them are ignorant of their rights, since organized labor is seen as something undesirable.

Thus, if we really and sincerely want to upgrade our workers, certain measures should be taken immediately. The first and the most important thing is to change our perception of labor. Our laborers should not be eyed suspiciously as a possible political force, or for their potential as troublemakers. They are part of our national assets and will always remain so. Certainly they should get their share of the development pie.

More vocational training schools should be opened. Top priority should be given to offering workers a chance to improve their skills. Labor laws should be fairly enforced. And of course the worker should also not be denied his rights, including their constitutional right of association. Everybody knows that without association, the workers are powerless.

In short, if we start from the premise that our workers are our partners in development, then surely they deserve to be treated fairly and humanely and given their due. We believe that in the end such a humane approach will benefit not only our workers, but also their employers. And certainly this, in turn, will serve to boost our national development efforts, which aim to build a just and prosperous society for all Indonesians.

Foreign Investment Commitments Drop Over 83%

BK1405103194 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 May 94 p 8

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Foreign investment commitments approved by the government during the March 16-April 15 period dropped by 83.2 percent to US$411.66 million from $2.46 billion in the February 16-March 15 period.

The Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) said in its latest monthly report that domestic investment commitments approved in the March-April period also fell. The drop, less sharp than for foreign investment, was 55.7 percent to Rp [rupiah] 3.08 trillion ($1.44 billion) from Rp 5.52 trillion in the previous month.

The report explained that the foreign investments approved in the March-April period were committed for 30 new projects worth $300.25 million and 14 expansion projects worth $111.40 million while the domestic investments were planned for the establishment of 44 new projects valued at Rp 2.27 trillion and 13 expansion projects valued at Rp 809.36 billion.

In comparison, during the February-March period the board approved 18 new foreign projects worth $384.97 million, 21 foreign expansion projects worth $2.08 billion 74 new domestic projects worth Rp 3.98 trillion and 31 domestic expansion projects valued at Rp 1.53 trillion.

The report showed that the largest foreign investment commitment was made by PT [Limited Company] Abadi Joyo Iron-Steel Corporation, which will invest $70.59 million for an iron plant in South Sulawesi.

The other new foreign projects include:
—A $21.41 million integrated Arabica-coffee plantation and processing project owned by PT Genap Mupakat in Aceh, northern Sumatera.
—A $21 million lamp-manufacturing factory in East Java owned by PT GE Angkasa Lighting.

The foreign expansion projects include:
—A $38.52 million consumer and household-electronics plant owned by PT National Gobel in East Java.
—A $34 million electric component and isolator plant owned by PT Scheider Indonesia in East and West Java.

The new domestic investments include:
—A Rp 517.15 billion integrated oil palm plantation and crude palm oil (CPO) processing project owned by PT Varita Majutama in Irian Jaya.
—A Rp 249.96 billion real estate and golf course complex owned by PT Adhibaladika in East Java.
—A Rp 166.95 billion medium density fiberboard (MDF) plant owned by PT Megarimba Karyatama in Lampung, southern Sumatera.
—A Rp 58.82 billion integrated oil palm plantation and CPO processing project owned by PT Pembangunan Khatulistiwa Belian Jaya in West Kalimantan.
—A Rp 45.50 billion steel-casting plant owned by PT Citra Industri Logam Mesin Persada in West Java.

The domestic expansion projects include:
—A Rp 220 billion integrated shrimp hatchery and cold storage project owned by PT Suri Tani Pemuka in South Kalimantan.
—A Rp 200 billion cement-based industry and general mining contractor services owned by PT Trumik Beton in West Java, with operations covering Indonesia.
—A Rp 170 billion industrial paper plant owned by PT Papyrus Sakti in West Java.

The report also specified that the licenses for three domestic projects have been canceled. The licenses were originally committed for the establishment of a rattan furniture factory in Central Sulawesi, a hotel in Bali and an industrial estate in East Java.

BKPM said that during the first 3.5 months of this year, it cumulatively approved 95 new foreign projects, which reflected a 58.3 percent increase from the 60 projects during the same period of last year. However, in terms of value, the investments to be involved in the projects increased by just 0.1 percent to $3.118 billion from $3.114 billion.

During the January l-April 15 period, BKPM approved 229 new domestic investment projects worth Rp 17.84 trillion.

Philippines

Ramos Supports ROK Peace Initiatives on DPRK

BK1705061194 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos and [South] Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, on Monday, reaffirmed their commitment to work for peace and stability, which they said is a key to progress and prosperity for all countries. The two also vowed to further strengthen bilateral relations between Manila and Seoul through constant dialogue and enhance economic cooperation.

In their 45-minute meeting, the president also reiterated to Minister Han the country's position on the North Korean issue which is for continued dialogue and search for peaceful approaches to the problem. The president told Minister Han, and I [newscaster] quote, we have taken a very strong supportive position, vis-a-vis the North Korean issue, [word indistinct] our region we are one of the most anti-communist here, unquote.

As a member of the executive board of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Philippines will support any initiative on the part of South Korea to diffuse tension between Seoul and Pyongyang. The president said, and I quote, again we are very much concerned that's why we are pushing for an encouraging maximum possible diplomatic and political courses of action that can bring about better convictions for peace and stability in the region, unquote.

The president also thanked the Korean Government for the training and skills upgrading it offered to the Filipino workers there. Also present during the meeting were Korean Ambassador Chang-su Yi, Foreign Affairs Director General for Asia-Pacific (Yu Byung Woo) and Foreign Affairs Director for Southeast Asia and Pacific Division (Moon Tai Yang). They were accompanied to Malacanang by Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo.

* Possible Military Equipment From South Korea

94P30051

[Editorial Report] The 20 April Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian on page 5 reported that the Philippines is interested in purchasing excess F-5 fighter jets and ships from South Korea as part of its efforts to modernize its military equipment, according to Lt. Gen. Arturo Enrile, the newly-appointed military chief. South Korea sold 12 patrol boats the Philippines at a sharply-reduced price last year, and was considering selling F-5 jets as well. This sale, however, must be approved by the U.S., since Korea acquired the jets through the U.S. military assistance program. Enrile pointed out that the Philippines is relying on only two 1960-vintage F-5 jets to guard its airspace. The problem became very apparent when U.S. forces withdrew from the country in 1992.

Ramos Dissociates From East Timor Conference

BK1705072694 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 17 May 94

[Statement issued by President Fidel Ramos on former Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus' mission to Indonesia; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] With respect to the scheduled meeting sponsored by some private groups on the situation in East Timor, I have sent a mission to Indonesia to convey a message from me to President Suharto. The mission will also call on Mr. Ali Alatas, the Indonesian foreign minister.

The mission which left for Jakarta early on Monday is headed by former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Raul Manglapus, with retired Major General Jose Magno and Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Rodolfo Severino as members.

The mission will reaffirm the Philippines' solidarity with Indonesia as a close friend and neighbor, and as partners in ASEAN, specifically, to reiterate the Philippine commitment to the support for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Indonesia including the province of East Timor.

The Philippines has affirmed this commitment and the support openly in [pause] last 19 years in the United Nations and in other forum.

The Manglapus mission will also take, [changes thought] make clear that the Philippine Government dissociates itself from the conference on East Timor, that it looks for with disfavor upon the use of Philippine territory to question the territorial integrity of a friendly neighbor, and that it disagrees with their premises on which the conference is being conveyed.

It will explain why, under the Philippine Constitution, it is possible for the Philippine Government to stop a gathering of private Filipino individuals from taking place. At the same time, the mission will assure the Indonesian Government of the Philippine Government's disavowal of this particular conference and of continuing Philippine solidarity with Indonesia on the question of East Timor. The Philippine Government has already stated this position before and will continue to manifest it strongly and in various ways.

The Philippines highly values its relationship with Indonesia which has been steadfast in its friendship with the Philippines.

I hope that all concerned will avoid doing anything that will damage the mutually beneficial relations between our two countries.

Jakarta Postpones 2d Round of Peace Talks

BK1705081594 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Indonesia is postponing indefinitely the second round of peace talks between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] representatives scheduled to start today until 23 May in Jakarta. Former Ambassador Manuel Yan, presidential peace adviser, confirmed the delay which is the second since the peace talks were first scheduled last mid-April.

According to Yan, Indonesia postponed the meeting due to a number of international commitments. Ambassador Yan denied speculations that the postponement was in reaction to the Philippines' hosting of a human rights conference here on East Timor which Indonesia views with disfavor.

Yemen Waives Exit Visas for Filipino Workers

BK1705062894 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The government of Yemen has agreed to waive the issuance of exit visas for Filipino contract workers who will be repatriated from Sanaa. Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo said this is with the understanding that the respective employers will certify their allowing their workers to leave. In these countries, as a matter policy, require foreign employees will get out of their territories to secure exit visas. [sentence as heard]

The government is now faced with funding problems with the evacuation and repatriation of Filipino workers in Yemen. Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo says that they are now looking for other resources to fund the repatriation of Filipino workers.

Ramos Orders Release of Detained Communist Leader

BK1705070794 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0230 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has given orders to study the possibility of releasing detained [communist] rebel leader Wilma Tiamzon. Press Secretary Jesus Sison announced that the president has commissioned Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon to submit an appropriate motion to release Tiamzon from the control of the Philippine National Police.

The president made this move after personally speaking to Tiamzon at the Philippine Heart Center. Tiamzon will be placed under the custody of the Bishop's Conference of the Philippines. Sison added that the president's move is one step towards accelerating the peace process.

Military Official Confirms NPA Build-Up in Negros

BK1605041494 Quezon City MALAYA in English 12 May 94 p 9

[Text] A ranking military official has confirmed the build-up of New People's Army [NPA] forces in Northern Negros through its "Balik-Masa [Return to Mass]" program. However, Lt. Col. Victor Ibrado, 11th Infantry Battalion commander, said the armed NPA Front Command 4, is still "temporarily dissolved." There are sightings of five to seven armed men but are avoiding soldiers, Ibrado said. [sentence as published] The NPA Front Command 4 was divided into several groups to give priority in recruitment land recovery of lost territories, Ibrado said. [sentence as published] NPA-initiated offensives have been reduced since early this year.

CPP-NPA-NDF Calls Lagman Group, ABB 'Renegades'

BK1605162494 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The hierarchy of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA-NDF] clarified today that the group led by Felimon Lagman, alias Carlos Forte, and the Alex Boncayao Brigade [ABB] have been expelled from the party.

According to a statement signed by Comrade Roger Rosal of the CPP-NPA-NDF Information Bureau, the Communist Party and the NDF have no knowledge of and are not responsible for the ABB impostor. Rosal emphasized that the Lagman group members are renegades and have been totally ousted from the revolutionary movement.

[Begin Rosal recording in progress] ...the Lagman group and the impostor ABB are no longer part of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army. The group headed by Felimon Lagman, alias Carlos Forte, and the militarist group posing as the Alex Boncayao Brigade that is continually using the name of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army are all renegades. [end recording]

Communist Group Steps Up 'Trial' of Officials

BK1605045994 Quezon City MALAYA in English 12 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Text] Senate President Edgardo Angara, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., House Majority Leader Ronaldo Zamora, and all Cabinet members except Health Secretary Juan Flavier are now being tried by the people's court of the armed group Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB).

Sergio Ramirez, spokesman of the ABB which claimed the Saturday gunslaying of Chief Inspector Timoteo Zarcal yesterday said Angara and De Venecia are being tried for their alleged involvement in the acquisition of behest loans and for "enriching themselves at the expense of the masses."

Without giving details, Ramirez said the Cabinet men, except Flavier who is pro-people, are being tried for "sins against the masses."

The other day, Filemon Lagman aka Carlos Forte, chairman of the breakaway group Manila-Rizal Committee, said his group is targeting De Venecia, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Presidential Legal Adviser Antonio Carpio, and Senior Supt. [Superintendent] Romeo B. Maganto, WPDC [Western Police District Command] deputy director for administration.

He said Pring was also targeted but he proved to be a "slippery target."

He also said the ABB is pursuing a public relations campaign by ridding the metropolis of criminals, a task the government has failed to accomplish.

Reacting to Ramirez' statements, Angara said: "I welcome the investigation. Wala naman tayong ginawa na masama sa taongbayan. Sana'y tapusin lang nila kaagad [I have not done anything wrong to the people. Hopefully, they'll conclude it as soon as possible.]"

He expressed confidence that an inquiry, if it will be on allegations that he benefited from the grant of behest loans to the Batong Buhay [Live Stone] Gold Mines, will finally clear him of the charges. He reiterated that as nominal director of the firm, he did not participate in decision-making in the company.

De Venecia Jr. refused to believe he was in the ABB hit list.

He quoted Carpio as saying his (De Venecia's) name was included in the supposed ABB hit list by "political enemies." He refused to identify the "enemies."

"This is just black propaganda. They're making it legitimate through you guys," De Venecia told reporters.

Maganto belittled the threat saying, "Matagal na 'yan. Di na 'ko nagre-react diyan [It has been there for so long. I don't react to it anymore]," he said.

President Ramos said police reports dispute the ABB's claim.

"The police progress reports indicate that it is not necessarily that the ABB did the killing. That is not the conclusion on the part of the police. They are looking at other angles," the president said in his weekly conference.

He also belittled the ABB's continuing threat to kill officials.

"This is not new. They have been making all kinds of threats in the past and they have always wanted to disrupt our society and the well-being and peace of mind of our people."

Senior Supt. Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr., director of the Western Police District Command, said probers are not "buying hook, line, and sinker" the ABB claim.

"We are pursuing all angles in our ongoing investigation. We will come out with a statement after we have gathered sufficient evidence," he said.

Ebdane also said the WPDC will honor Zarcal during his burial next week. Despite Zarcal's dismissal from the police force, the WPDC still considers him a policeman, Ebdane said. Zarcal is an organic member of WPDC.

The Western Police District Command released cartographic sketches of two of six suspects in the Zarcal murder.

One of them is 24 to 26 years old, 5'6" to 5'7" tall, of medium build, and dark complexion. He hit Zarcal in the left temple.

The second is 25 to 30 years old, 5'4" to 5'5" tall, of medium build, and brown complexion. He monitored Zarcal's movements prior to the attack.

Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon appealed to the ABB to stop summary execution of government officials allegedly involved in corrupt and nefarious activities. While there are defects in the country's justice system, Drilon said, no group should take the law into its hands.

Steps are being taken by government to correct defects in the criminal system and strengthen the rule of law," Drilon added.

First Quarter Trade Gap Reaches $1.663 Billion

BK1705043094 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 13 May 94 pp 1, 7

[By Margarita H. Debuque]

[Text] The country's trade gap widened to $1.663 billion in the first three months from $1.280 billion in the same period last year, according to the latest data from the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The uptick is roughly equivalent to a 30 percent growth.

As before, imports continued to outperform exports. The import bill grew by 21.9 percent to hit $4.579 billion in March from $3.756 billion last year. Exports, on the other hand, grew by just 17.8 percent in the period. The country's export receipts rang up a meager $2.916 billion in the first quarter.

However, exports are starting to show indications of catching up. For March alone, export earnings rose by 24.7 percent to $1.05 billion, from $842 million the same month a year ago. Import bills in the same period grew by only 14 percent (to $1.586 billion).

Month on month, though, imports still outpaced exports. From February to March, imports grew by 17.7 percent as against exports which grew by 14.4 percent.

Of the March imports, electronics and components for the manufacture of semiconductors topped the list. Imports expenditures reached $186.19 million—or 10.5 percent higher than last year's figures—but declined by 11.9 percent from the previous month. Electronics and components have together been the country's number one import for the third consecutive month.

Power-generating and specialized machinery also took a huge chunk of the bill. Expenditures on the product amounted to $176.36 million, or up 10.5 percent from last year. Spending on capital equipment increased as the government continued to boost its energy expansion programs. Power-generating machinery topped the list a year ago, but slipped when the country enjoyed a breathing spell from power shortage. Imports of the commodity fell 11.9 percent from February.

Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials ranked third with imports worth $138.19 million. This value reflected a 7.6 percent decrease from last year's level, and a slight uptick from the previous month.

Imports of telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery followed with bills amounting to $120.02 million, down 24.5 percent from $158.89 million in the previous year.

Transport equipment, the fifth biggest import, registered at $105.38 million, after dropping 55 percent from $67.97 million.

Other major imports include textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products ($103.04 million); iron and steel ($77.51 million); paper and paper products ($73.05 million); materials and accessories imported on consignment basis for the manufacture of other electrical and electronic machinery and equipment ($47.41 million); and, plastics and non-primary forms ($45.03 million). The ten major imports accounted for 67.6 percent of the total.

Japan and the United States remained the major source of goods. Shipments from Japan to the Philippines were valued at $381 million while shipments from the United States were worth $271 million. Imports from the two countries together took up 41.1 percent of the total import bill.

Offshore Well Yields 5,487 Barrels Per Day

BK1605050594 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 12 May 94 pp 1, 7

[Text] Good news. The country may well be on its way to becoming a major oil and gas producer by 1998.

Results of the short production tests at the Malampaya-3 well in offshore northwest Palawan flowed at a rate of 5,487 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) and 5.05 million standard cubic feet of gas per day, the Department of Energy (DoE) said in a report yesterday.

Dre Boon, Shell Phils. [Philippines] Exploration (SPEX) vice president told BUSINESS WORLD yesterday the results are more than what they expected. SPEX is the operator of the Camago-Malampaya fields in offshore northwest Palawan.

"This is very good news. We are very happy about it. This is a confirmation of our studies and reports," he said.

He explained that the initial tests were done on the oil zone of the well at about 3,400 meters below the rig. The tests are usually done from the bottom which contains the oil deposits and then upwards where the gas deposits lie.

Another 24-hour test will be done on the oil zone before SPEX goes up to the gas zone, after which, a full gas test will be done. Based on their schedule, the gas test will start next week.

Mr. Boon said SPEX will finish its testing on the Malampaya-3 well by the end of the month. Afterwards, SPEX will immediately drill its second appraisal well which would be between the Malampaya-3 well in the southern part and the Camago-Malampaya 1 and 2 wells in the northern part.

He said there is a distance of about 10 kilometers from the north and south parts of the Malampaya fields.

Thus, the results of the next drilling will determine if the basin from north to south contains oil or gas. Mr. Boon said the 5.05 million cubic feet of gas daily flow rate registered in the oil zone is just normal and is not a determining factor on whether or not there are enough gas deposits to warrant commercial production.

However, in the upcoming full gas tests, SPEX needs at least a flow rate of about 20 million cubic feet of gas per day.

At present, SPEX is gathering more information on the geology of the well to be able to establish the reserves of the whole Camago- Malampaya fields.

Meanwhile, Alcorn (Production) Phils., operator of the West Linapacan fields also in offshore northwest Palawan has set and cemented the seven-inch liner at 7,595 feet.

The operator is currently preparing to drill out excess cement. Then, it will run the cement bond log.

Ampolex, Ltd. operator of Villaba-1 well in offshore Leyte has drilled to a depth of 4,049 feet. Gas shows predominantly methane, propane with traces of butane were recorded. The operator is drilling ahead.

Thailand

Reportage on Drug Suspect Thanong Continues

Chuan Calls for Police Action

BK1505102694 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 15 May 94 p A1

[Excerpt] Thai law enforcers should start looking into the allegations of drug trafficking made against Chat Thai MP Thanong Siriprichapong, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday.

Information provided by US authorities linking Thanong to a conspiracy to smuggle 45 tones of marijuana into the United States from 1973-87 constituted grounds for an investigation, he said.

"With or without US urging, it is the duty of Thai law eforcement officials to take action. Police have a duty to investigate alleged wrongdoers—no matter who they are," the prime minister said. "In the case in question, there are adequate grounds for investigation."

House Speaker Marut Bunnak yesterday said a Chat Thai urgency motion asking the House of Representatives to consider taking action against Thanong had been put on the agenda.

The motion was item 14 on the agenda, but could be brought forward if MPs wished.

Submitted by Chamnong Phothisaro (Chat Thai-Sisaket), it asks the House of Representatives to decide what to do about the Nakhon Phanom MP, charging that the allegations against him have affected the credibility of the House. [passage omitted]

Chat Thai Member Proposes Debate

BK1405100894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 May 94 p 1

[Excerpt] A Chat Thai Party MP has sponsored an urgent motion for the Lower House to debate the Thanong Siriprichaphong marijuana smuggling case.

Deputy House Speaker Thawin Phraison said the motion was submitted by Sisaket MP Chamnong Phothisaro and was accepted for the House meeting agenda.

Whether the motion would be moved up for debate at the Lower House's next meeting would depend on the opinion of the majority of the Lower House members, Mr Thawin said.

Fellow lawmakers said yesterday that Mr Thanong should know what course of action to take because he is the one embroiled in the scandal.

Phalang Tham Party [PTP] founder Chamlong Simuang said as an MP, Mr Thanong should know best what step he should take as a result of the scandal.

Maj. Gen. Chamlong said, however, that in the interests of justice and fairness Mr Thanong's position should also be heard.

The PTP de facto leader denied that the United States' accusation against Thanong was part of a plan by PTP to ruin Chart Thai's chance of joining the coalition. He also said that was no reason for PTP to try to discredit Chat Thai.

"I believe the people know Khun Thanong's problem. MPs are grown-up people and they should set themselves up as models for others to obtain the public's trust. We all know what Khun Thanong should do," Maj. Gen. Chamlong said.

Commenting on the issue, Deputy House Speaker Thawin said he believed the Nakhon Phanom MP possessed "political spirit" and knows what he should do. [passage omitted]

ASEAN Urged To Stand Against Interference in Cambodia

BK1505092894 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 15 May 94 pp A1, A2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday urged ASEAN countries to take a unified stand against foreign interference in the Cambodian civil war.

"ASEAN is in a good position to voice opposition to any foreign interference in Cambodia's internal affairs and to oppose foreign (arms) assistance to any of the Cambodian parties," he said.

King Sihanouk said last week that foreign military assistance to the Cambodian government might be the only way to end the war with the Khmer Rouge.

An Australian government official said in Canberra on Friday that the Phnom Penh government had approached Australia, the United States, France and "some ASEAN countries" for weapons.

The six-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. Thailand has repeatedly warned against outside interference in Cambodia's affairs.

Chuan reiterated yesterday that his government preferred a nonmilitary solution to the conflict. The seemingly endless war would only be fuelled further by fresh supplies of weapons, and this would have a direct affect on Thailand, he added. However, the prime minister opined it was the Cambodian government's "sovereign right to ask for a foreign arms supply".

Thailand, smarting under allegations it denies that it still supports the Khmer Rouge, has been unsuccessful in previous attempts to convince its ASEAN partners of the need for a unified stand against foreign interference in Cambodia.

Despite well-earned world praise for ASEAN's earlier cohesiveness in policies towards Cambodia, a meeting of senior officials from the six nations in Thailand last month could not reach a consensus on the situation there.

Phnom Penh will be invited as a special guest to the annual ASEAN meetings to be held in Bangkok in July, when the situation in Cambodia will be a topic of concern.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan yesterday urged France and Indonesia, as co-chairmen of the Paris Peace Conference, to call for consultations among all 19 signatories to the Paris peace agreement on the question of foreign arms supplies. They include the US, France and Australia.

"The issue now is that even Western arms suppliers have no consensus on whether to supply arms to Cambodia," Surin told reporters upon his return from Saudi Arabia.

NSC Opposes Foreign Aid to Phnom Penh

BK1405100494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 94 p 4

[Text] National Security Council [NSC] chief Gen Charan Kunlawanit strongly opposes any foreign assistance to the Cambodian army, and has warned that military aid will only prolong the war in Cambodia.

An informed government source said Charan made his views known during a visit by the Australian secretary for foreign affairs about two weeks ago. The source quoted Charan as saying that providing arms is not the best way to achieve a lasting peace in Cambodia.

Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk recently called for foreign military aid, saying it was the only way the end the war with the Khmer Rouge, and named Australia, France and the United States as likely providers.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said yesterday that Canberra considered it "wholly legitimate, and consistent with the Paris Peace Accords, for the Cambodian government to seek such assistance from the international community in order to maintain the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity".

He said Australia is considering Cambodia's request for weapons but will consult and take into account the views of other interested countries, including Thailand.

Charan also expressed concern that the poorly-paid and ill-disciplined Cambodian troops will eventually sell off the foreign arms.

Sarot Chawanawirat, deputy permanent secretary for foreign affairs, said the Cambodian government was entitled to seek help, but Thailand believed that providing arms to Cambodia would only prolong the fighting there.

Military Solution to Cambodian Problem Criticized

BK1305132594 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 13 May 94

["Special Report": "Price of Peace in Cambodia"]

[Text] King Sihanouk, disappointed with a lack of progress in his attempt to hold dialogue for national reconciliation, said in a news conference yesterday that he was sorry that the conduct of the leaders of the Cambodian factions was not worthy of the $3,000 million the world gave to the United Nations to forge an end to the armed dispute and to hold general elections last year. The king blamed continued disputes among the Cambodian factions as the main cause of the political problem in his country.

The $3 billion UN administration of Cambodia during the transition period leading to the election was not just the most expensive UN operation, it achieved only partial success. That is, while the United Nations succeeded in organizing the election and formation of government of the people, it failed to achieved peace and national reconciliation, which were just as important. To date, no one can tell how much more investment will be needed to achieve the complete goal as desired by the United Nations.

It is strange that while so far there is no answer to the question of how much more the world has to pay to enable the Cambodian people to avoid genocide, certain countries have openly said that they are ready to make more investment by sending in their soldiers or providing arms to the Cambodians. This would only exacerbate the fighting in that country. It appears as if the world has put a cap on its budget for peace in Cambodia and has begun to contemplate a budget for war and destruction. As long as the Cambodian factions continue their disputes, the trend for more intense fighting could gain greater support from other Western countries. If the Cambodian leaders agree to the strange proposal advanced by the west, peace will likely be achieved only by extermination of the Cambodian race.

Army Chief Urges Phnom Penh To Name Outlawed Groups

BK1605031594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 May 94 pp A1, A4

[Text] The Phnom Penh government should end confusion and announce which Cambodian factions are officially outlawed, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit said yesterday.

"An announcement would make it clear who is who in the country, as different people have different understandings. Some may have incorrect assumptions," Gen Wimon said.

He also reiterated his belief that supplying weapons to the Cambodian government would only prolong the civil war there and warned that Thailand would be seriously affected.

The general was responding to reports that Australia and United States are considering a request by King Norodom Sihanouk for fresh military aid to save his war-ravaged country "from the yoke of the Khmer Rouge".

Australian officials said last week that Canberra, Washington, Paris and some Asian countries were discussing how to bolster Phnom Penh's ill-disciplined and poorly-equipped military, but no decision had been made.

France is co-chairman of the Paris Peace Conference, which set up the peace accords. Indonesia is the other chairman.

"Thailand would be seriously affected as the weapons supplied to Cambodia would be put on sale along the Thai border by ill- disciplined Cambodian government troops in need of money because their pay is so low," Wimon said.

He warned that his patience with Cambodia was running out.

"Thailand has never intervened in Cambodia's domestic affairs and will not do so. It is their own business if they want to kill one another. But I will not continue to be patient if Thais are affected, as I am also Thai.

"What Cambodia needs is humanitarian assistance for its people, which would help bring lasting peace to the country and the region."

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri has also warned that providing weapons would only prolong the fighting in Cambodia, not bring about a peaceful settlement.

Other senior Thai officials are also clearly opposed to any military assistance for Phnom Penh's forces.

Deputy Defence Minister Maj Gen Sombat Rotphothong and First Army Region Commander Lt Gen Chettha Thanacharo said in separate interviews that Australia had a right to provide weapons if requested by the Cambodian government, but that Canberra should consult Thailand before making a decision.

"Canberra should ask for Thailand's opinions on the provision of weapons to Phnom Penh," Sombat said without further elaboration. Chettha said consultation was necessary because Thailand was Cambodia's immediate neighbour.

Gen Wimon said: "If some kind of assistance can bring lasting peace to Cambodia it would be really appreciated by other countries, as a peaceful situation attracts investment."

However, if Australia gave military assistance to Cambodia it would destroy the existing "peace". The peace-building process there could not be achieved through military support.

Troops on Alert for Fighting on Burma Border

BK1505101294 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 15 May 94 p A2

[Text] Chiang Mai—The Third Army has reinforced the northern border with Burma's Shan State to ensure fighting between the Burmese army and the Mong Tai Army of opium warlord Khun Sa does not spill over into Thailand. Border security sources said local border patrol police, the military's special 327 unit and paramilitary troops have been put on alert.

The sources said the fighting was about 40 km from the border and so far was not intense. Thais living in the frontier area had not been affected. The wounded from both sides were being sent to Thailand for medical treatment, but were being sent back once they recovered, according to the source.

Khun Sa's army and the government forces have been fighting over mountainous areas near Mong Chot in southern Shan State since Wednesday.

Mong Chot is a strategic Burmese border town about 30 km from the Thai village of Ban Piang Luang, in the Wiang Haeng district of Chiang Mai.

Khun Sa's spokesman, Khunsai Jaiyene, said the MTA had captured 13 Burmese outposts on three hills surrounding Mong Chot, and was advancing toward the town. He hoped the guerrillas would seize the Burmese stronghold at Doi Pok Hom within the next two days. He said they had already surrounded the area.

About 500 troops of the MTA 52nd Battalion, led by Maj Saeng Som, were used in the attack against about 700 Burmese defenders, he added. He said the Burmese had lost 25 men, while the MTA suffered 18 dead and 45 wounded.

Khun Sa's forces had also taken five soldiers and two porters captive. The border sources said the ethnic Wa had recently sent about 500 troops to assist the Burmese 519th Battalion, which is stationed near Mong Chot. The MTA has also sent reinforcements. The sources predicted the fighting would soon intensify.

Yunnan Governor on Official Visit in Bangkok

Received by Prime Minister Chuan

BK1305121994 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Yunnan Governor He Zhiqiang of China and his delegation, accompanied by Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who is concurrently president of the Thai-Chinese Culture and Economics Association, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at Government House today. The Yunnan governor is leading a delegation which also comprises private businessmen on a visit to Thailand for talks on investment cooperation.

During the talks, the two sides discussed cooperation in various fields, including joint investment in infrastructure projects, especially land and water transportation projects, to help link and develop the quadrangle economic zone.

Committee To Study Highway Project

BK1505140394 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese 14 May 94 p 7

[Text] Thailand, Laos, and China will set up a committee to study the construction of highways from Chiang Rai Province through Laos to China's border in Yunnan Province, Deputy Communications Minister Charat Phuachuai disclosed after holding talks with Yunnan Governor He Zhiqiang.

Charat said that a tripartite committee including highways authorities in Thailand, Laos, and China will be set up soon to study the project.

The Asian Development Bank held a meeting two weeks ago to survey the road route through Laos. The study will be completed in September. Charat said that the committee will help the Asian Development Bank to summarize the survey faster.

Yunnan Governor He Zhiqiang said he is interested in jointly building a road from Thailand into Xishuangbanna. The governor said that there are two possible routes. One is from Chiang Khong of Chiang Rai Province in Thailand through Bokeo Province, Luang Namtha Province, and Boten district in Laos to the border of China. Another one is from Mae Sai of Chiang Rai Province through Tachilek, Kengtung in Burma to Daluo in China.

Deputy Communications Minister Charat said that Thailand is more interested in the route through Laos because Thailand just signed a memorandum of understanding with Laos last week agreeing to support Lao transport and communications business. He also said that the second route through Burma is not so safe because it would face problems with Burmese minorities.

Regarding waterway transport along the Mekong River from Chiang Rai to Xishuangbanna, the Thai deputy communications minister said that the Thai Government has approved the construction of permanent piers at Chiang Khong and Chiang Saen to be international customs posts. The government will provide 20 million baht for each pier.

Tax Exemption Agreed With Saudi Arabia

BK1505102594 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 15 May 94 p 2

[Text] The air transport tax exemption agreement between Thailand and Saudi Arabia will foster relations and cooperation in tourism, trade, investment and exports between the two countries, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said yesterday.

The signing ceremony for the Agreement for Reciprocal Exemption of Taxes on the Activities of Air Transport Enterprises took place last Tuesday in Jeddah by Mr Surin and Saudi Deputy Minister of Finance and Economics Dr Abdulaziz al Nasrullah.

"According to the Revenue and Aviation departments, the agreement would help reduce people's travelling expenses by 10 per cent and promote air transport and travel," Mr Surin said upon his return from Jeddah.

The deputy foreign minister left Bangkok on May 9 for Jeddah as chief of Thai pilgrims to Mecca for the annual Haj rites. He is scheduled to leave for Saudi Arabia again on Wednesday.

The agreement was the first between the governments of Thailand and Saudi Arabia in the last five years, he said.

Lao Government Sets Development Plan for North

BK1505154994 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 14 May 94 p 12

[Text] Phrae—His Excellency Bounkeut Sangsomsak, the ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Thailand, told reporters that it is the policy of the Lao Government to give its full support to the quadrangle economic development program, adding that the Lao Government is always aware of the fact that the complete implementation of this four-nation cooperation scheme will greatly benefit Laos in terms of tourism, industrial development, and international trade. He noted that the Provinces of Luang Namtha, Bokeo, Sayaboury, and Oudomsai will directly reap the fruits of the program.

The ambassador, however, pointed out that the Lao Government has no intention to pin all its hopes on the development scheme, because it realizes that a program of such a magnitude will require a prior careful feasibility study. As a result of the technical meetings, one held in Bangkok and the rest in the Philippines, the four countries involved have agreed that the private sectors should be allowed to play the leading role, and, as everyone knows, he said, the private sectors have their limits in carrying out working projects.

Since the feasibility study for the quadrangle economic development program will be very time consuming, the Lao Government has decided to implement its own development plan for the northern part of the country. Under this plan, the government will first estimate the total expense of the plan and seek loans from foreign countries to finance all construction projects, which will be carried out by both Thai and Lao contractors through bidding.

His Excellency Bunkeut said that the Lao Government cannot depend solely on the quadrangle economic development program, because each participating country has its own objectives to pursue. For example, Thailand is interested in trade and tourism, while Laos looks forward to industrial development, and China sets its target on both tourism and industries. Under the quadrangle scheme, laws on import and export control and immigration legislations of the four countries must be realigned into the same direction to ensure good coordination. It will be a long time before they can achieve that.

Chuan Recommends Release of Vietnamese Crewmen

BK1405144194 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Thai Navy detained a Vietnamese boat named "TD-008" with 14 crewmen and a number of weapons in Thai territorial waters on 7 February while the boat was chasing Thai fishing trawlers. It was charged with an act of terrorism and a violation of international and Thai laws. Later on, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his delegation visited the SRV between 16-19 March at the invitation of the Vietnamese prime minister. During their meeting on 17 March, the foreign ministers of the two countries discussed the issue of the release of the fishermen, proposing an exchange for Thai fishermen held in Vietnam. Vietnam offered to release Thai fishermen held in Vietnam as soon as possible and to consider releasing 16 Thai prisoners held for trying to escape prisons and for killing people in Can Tho Province, provided that the relatives of those prisoners agreed to pay a fine of U.S. $20,000 as judged by the court. At the same time, Vietnam asked Thailand to release the 14 Vietnamese crewmen held by the Thai Navy. Subsequently, the Thai prime minister agreed to release the 14 Vietnamese to promote good relations with Vietnam and to create a good atmopshere for future talks with Vietnam on other issues.

Muslim Groups Link South Bombs to May 1992 Violence

BK1405151994 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 94 p A4

[Text] Nineteen Muslim organizations have claimed that violence in the South was a consequence of the May 1992 turmoil, and not the work of separatists, according to a news bulletin.

The SAN EKKAPHAP (Solidarity News Bulletin), published by southern Muslim MPs, said the organizations believed the violence was not created by separatist guerrillas. The violence occurred as a result of the May upheavals which culminated in the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations.

The organizations claimed the government had information relevant to the violence. It should reveal the facts in a straightforward manner, and improve its working system to prevent the situation from deteriorating.

"The government has to shoulder responsibility for the violent incidents. The government must take decisive action to prevent the situation from turning into bloodshed," they said.

The organizations said social and political problems had affected the South's economy. They claimed the South had lost BtlO billion in economic gains in the past year.

The bulletin is published by the Solidarity Muslim group of Muslim MPs from the five southernmost provinces, led by Deputy Interior Minister Den Tomina.

Den, a Pattani MP, said in the first issue of the bulletin that the publication was aimed at protecting Muslim interests and creating better understanding between Muslims and Buddhists.

Education Minister Samphan Thongsamak told reporters that the four Muslims accused of involvement in bomb attacks in the South are not preachers but teachers of religion.

The four suspects, who were granted bail on Tuesday, have been charged with sedition. Muslims have claimed the men were scapegoats, and it was speculated that they would rally to protest the arrests.

However, many senior police officers, including national police chief Prathin Santipraphop, have repeated several times they have substantive evidence to prove the men guilty.

Samphan said individuals suspected of committing crimes would be prosecuted in accordance with the law, regardless of their religion.

"It is not that if you are a Muslim, you will not be punished when you do wrong," he said.

Politicians should not intervene in the case because they could not change the truth. Police should not be disheartened and should proceed according to the law, Samphan said.

Some Muslim MPs of the New Aspiration Party, also claiming the men were scapegoats, have said they would represent them in court.

In Songkhla, Police Director General Prathin yesterday said police had sufficient evidence to take legal action. The suspects had the right to ask that new investigators be appointed, but he would have the final say.

Assistant police chief Michai Nukunkit said investigators would file suits against the suspects next week. Army Commander in Chief Wimon Wongwanit said crime suspects must be prosecuted with an even hand, regardless of their religion.

Debate on Money Laundering Bill Continues

Bill Wins Support From Agencies

BK1405115894 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 94 pp A1, A4

[Text] Law enforcement agencies and financial supervisory authorities unanimously support money laundering legislation now being drafted by a government committee, Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said yesterday.

Amnuai said he had ordered the government panel in charge of drawing up new laws, in cooperation with Chulalongkon University's Faculty of Law, to study money laundering laws already in use in other countries.

"We have discussed the matter and all government agencies have given their full support," Amnuai said. "I have also raised the issue with the Bank of Thailand. There should be no problem (in introducing the law)."

Amnuai, who oversees the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), said he was advised by the anti-drug agency that such a law would make it difficult for drug traffickers to convert their proceeds into legal currencies and assets.

"The measures against money laundering are a good thing. And it would not hurt law-abiding citizens either," Amnuai said. "No private individual's rights will be compromised."

He sought to allay fears expressed by some members of the banking community and politicians that a money laundering law would turn away foreign investors and shoot down Thailand's aspiration to become a financial hub in Southeast Asia.

"I don't think a money laundering law, if introduced, would affect local or foreign investors. And there is no question about whether commercial banks would cooperate with the government on the matter. All we need is appropriate guidelines and procedures.

Amnuai said a money laundering law would require banks to report to law enforcement agencies "unusual transactions", particularly large cash deposits, by their clients." The anti-money laundering measures will seek to control and monitor cash transactions. No restrictions will be imposed on the issuance of personal cheques which can already be monitored."

Senate Speaker Michai Ruchuphan, a legal expert, said a money laundering law was like a "two-edged sword" because although it would be useful as an instrument against drug traffickers and other organized crime, it would have a wide-ranging effect on all members of the public.

"The money laundering law would affect everyone of us. The law would require everybody—no matter who he is or what he does—to identify the source of his money," Michai said.

He said the government should carefully consider the advantages and drawbacks of such legislation before deciding whether to enact it. Among possible drawbacks is abuse of authority by government officials who have access to people's financial records.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said he approved of the proposal by anti-drug officials to introduce a money laundering law provided that it did not infringe upon the freedom of the individual.

Also yesterday, John Gieve, president of the Group of Seven's Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) said senior Thai government officials he met during a two-day visit Thursday and yesterday had expressed support for the proposed introduction of a law to combat money laundering.

Gieve, also under-secretary of the United Kingdom's Treasury, met Bank of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphinit on Thursday and Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin yesterday, among other senior Thai officials.

The FATF was established by the Group of Seven Economic Summit in 1989 to develop a multilateral response to the threat posed by the growth of international money laundering, particularly the laundering of drug trafficking proceeds. The body now has 26 member countries.

FATF member countries in Asia-Pacific include Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia.

Dilwyn Griffiths, secretary to the FATF, said although money laundering was never an issue in Thailand because the country has not made it a criminal offense, there must be some laundering activities given the fact that Thailand is a major transshipment point for heroin from the Golden Triangle to the world market.

Report on Money Laundering Law

BK1405155794 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 12 May 94 p 2

["This report is excerpted from a Bank of Thailand document presented by Charung Nukhwan, assistant governor of the Bank of Thailand to the seminar organized by the Faculty of Law of Chulalongkon University in September 1993"]

[Excerpts] Money laundering is a process of turning illegally- or unscrupulously-earned money into legal currency and preventing attempts to prove its illicit origin. Not only narcotics traffickers but also criminals have been engaging in money laundering activities to purify their money.

Money laundering techniques vary from country to country. One way to do money laundering is to keep tranferring money from one bank or financial institution to another until it is difficult to trace the origin of that money.

In some cases, the money is first sent to countries where laws strictly prohibit financial institutions from revealing the identity and personal information of their customers. Later, the money will be sent back home. By so doing, authorities will find it rather difficult to gather sufficient evidence to take any legal action against the owner of the money.

Different Patterns of Money Laundering

(1) Illegally-earned money is spent as cash abroad. However, carrying a huge amount of cash travelling abroad is rather difficult and can trigger official suspicion. Some countries impose strict controls on cash transactions while financial systems in many countries are not conducive to cash transactions. Therefore, cash dealings are practical only in countries where regulations are lenient. Cash can also be sent out across the borders to other countries with assistance from corrupt officials.

(2) Depositing the money with financial institutions in the country is a common practice. Depositors normally use false names in their account books to protect their identities. This method is popular in countries where laws do not require the disclosure of identities of persons who make transactions or the specification of the value of each transaction. This legal shortcoming is conducive to using financial institutions to do money laundering.

(3) Depositing cash with commercial banks and financial institutions in other countries where laws on the control of the operations of banks and financial institutions are lenient so that the money will be included in those countries' monetary systems. After that, the money is transferred back to its owners, traffickers or criminals, through different means such as the wire transfer service. The money is now considered clean. This is a weakpoint of the countries which fail to enforce the law to strictly control cash outflows.

(4) Setting up a business or company is another tactics used by traffickers or criminals to conceal the source and ownership of their illicit money. They might either set up or purchase a company in a tax-free zone abroad. They then have their enterprises at home take out a loan or buy goods at exorbitant prices from their company in the foreign country so that the illegal money can be circulated between the two enterprises.

(5) Other methods of money laundering include purchasing cash- earning businesses which have been operating at a loss such as hotels, foreign exchange ventures, restaurants, retail shops, etc. The illicit money then is used to revive these businesses. The money is later siphoned out to do something else such as buying assignable commercial papers issued by financial institutions which assume no responsibility over any change of holders of the documents.

Moreover, advanced communications technologies in money transfer only emphasize quickness. Officials handling the transactions have no way of knowing their customers or the objectives of the transactions. This is another good alternative for money launderers to clean their dirty money.

Prevention And Suppression Of Money Laundering In Foreign Countries.

FATF, Financial Action Task Force is an interantional cooperation program established with U.S. assistance in 1989. [passage omitted]

Money Laundering Prevention in Thailand.

At present, Thailand is not a member of any international organization, nor has it concluded an agreement with any countries on money laundering prevention. There is not specific law dealing with this problem. Money laundering is not regarded as a criminal offense. Financial institutions have no particular measures against money laundering except those curbing the amount of money in domestic circulation and the risks borne by financial institutions in dealing with their clients. However, there are several rules and regulations which indirectly obstruct money laundering such as the control on cash inflow and outflow, the requirement for customers engaging in money transaction to reveal their identities, and the retention of transaction records. In fact, these are regular pratices of commercial banks.

Despite the lack of a secrecy law, it is the etiquette of financial institutions to keep the identities of their customers secret.

Suggestions:

There are some shortcomings which can obstruct the introductioin of a money laundering law. Here are some suggestions to overcome the problems.

(1) At the initial stage, a law must be promulgated to give legal immunity to commercial banks and financial institutions which release information about their customers who are suspected of doing money laundering. After a period of time, commercial banks and financial institutions are required to report to the authorities any irregularities, such as the transfer of a suspiciously high amount of money so that the latter can closely follow it up.

(2) Commercial banks and financial institutions must be required by law to know their customers in person and be prohibited from opening accounts for customers who use fake names or refuse to give their real names. Withdrawing or depositing huge amounts of cash, for example over 10 million baht, would require some written justification, which must be keep in the records for a period of time. Suspicious cases must be reported to authorities immediately. Commercial banks and financial institutions must work out an effective system for watching out for and following up any money laundering.

(3) A special working unit should be set up to investigate monetary offences, confiscate or impound property purchased with the money from drug trafficking and other criminal activities, and receive information from commercial banks and financial institutions for coordination with other agencies concerned. This unit can be established independently or under the jurisdiction of a ministry.

At present, Thailand is in the process of opening its financial market and relaxing regulations on the operations of financial institutions. New requirements for financial institutions in monitoring their customers and reporting to authorities can become obstacles to the implementation of the said liberal policy. Several countries, such as Singapore, have started enforcing this law. Therefore, Thailand can still wait to see the result first.

Laws and regulations on the control of operation of commercial banks and fiancial institutions in Asian countries are not much different. The enforcement of the money laundering legislation must be carried out step by step to ensure the country's maximum interest.

Supported by Bangkok Daily

BK1405153694 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 12 May 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Money Laundering Law Is Needed"]

[Text] The call for a money laundering prevention law has drawn greater attention from the general public following following the seizure of the property in the United States of a Thai MP who was accused of being involved in marijuana trafficking in that country. At present, Thailand has no law for the prevention of dirty money laundering, while such a legislation has already been enforced in many countries, including by our neighbors, such as Singapore. The money laundering prevention will enable the authorities to probe into the financial status of any suspicious persons to determine the sources of their money and related transactions.

As a matter of fact, the examination of assets and liabilities of suspected individuals is nothing new to Thailand. Following the previous coup, the then ruling National Peacekeeping Council issued a special order for the examination of assets of suspicious politicians. As a result, the people were informed of politicians who received gifts of checks and individuals who gave such gifts to them. This is another type of money laundering law onced enforced in Thailand. But this peculiar measure was unacceptable in a democratic society because of its discriminatory enforcement.

Looked at from another angle, the money laundering law can also affect individual rights. However, if too much emphasis is placed on personal rights, the whole society can suffer adverse consequences. It is imperative that the state place the interests of the society over that of individuals. Without this law, it is feared that Thailand can become a haven of dirty money which is normally earned from narcotics trafficking, the contraband goods trade, and other illegal activities.

Financial institutions might find it hard to swallow if such a law is enforced. Their business and liquidity can be hampered should the money of their clients be ordered frozen pending official investigation. But they should consider the adverse consequences the country has to bear without this law. Switzerland was once labelled as one of the places where dirty money was deposited.

The current situation and present trends in the world and society have warranted a money laundering prevention law for Thailand. Hence, the authorities will be able to examine the money of suspicious individuals. Otherwise, Thailand will become a haven of dirty money from law breakers in the country as well as from unscrupulous individuals abroad. However, if the law makers themselves also have wounds on their backs that need covering, it is very likely that such a legislation will never be promulgated.

Vietnam

Commentary Reviews Vo Van Kiet Visit to Burma

BK1605154094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 16 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnam and Myanmar [Burma] are two countries in Southeast Asia which have traditional relations. The late President of Vietnam Ho Chi Minh visited Myanmar 35 years ago, and that visit was a turning point in the road of mutual understanding between the two nations.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit also left a deep impression on the Myanmar people. Despite the changing weather, thousands of people in their colorful traditional costumes, lined up along the road leading to the center of Rangoon to welcome Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his party. On the very first day of his visit, all newspapers in Myanmar frontpaged portrait and biography of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. They also carried editorials praising relations between the two countries.

Various meetings among state leaders of the two countries took place in the atmosphere of mutual understanding. Future economic and trade cooperation between Vietnam and Myanmar was an important topic at the talks. An agreement on trade was signed in 1976, but trade turnover was very modest, mainly in exchange of consumer goods and family facilities. Therefore, this time both Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his Myanmar counterpart Than Shwe expressed the determination to further strengthen cooperative relations between the two countries. Prime Minister Than Shwe said that he has been following, with keen interest, the successful process of renovation in Vietnam. He said that there was no obstacle for Myanmar to develop its relations with Vietnam.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said: Vietnam always attaches great importance to the development of more bilateral cooperation with Myanmar. An agreement on trade, tourism cooperation and the establishment of a joint commission of bilateral cooperation was signed during the visit. It is the concrete manifestation of the two countries' determination.

Myanmar is now in its process of renovation. Hence, Vietnam and Myanmar share much in common. The existing fine relations between Vietnam and Myanmar and the outcome of the visit by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will usher in a new stage of relations and cooperation between the two countries. This was assessed by the foreign ministers of Vietnam and Myanmar. And now the two nations are trying their best to make their cooperation more effective and fruitful.

Vice President Meets South African President

BK1405154894 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 14—Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh, who was in South Africa to attend Nelson Mandela's presidential inauguration has paid a courtesy visit to President Nelson Mandela.

South African President N. Mandela expressed his thanks to the Vietnamese state for sending the delegation to attend his presidential inauguration and briefed the Vietnamese guests the highlights in his country's situation.

Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh hailed the history-making victory of the South African people and reaffirmed that Vietnamese people's unswerving supports to the justice struggle of the South African people. She said that Vietnam wishes to strengthen and broaden its existing friendship relations with South Africa, especially in the trade and economic domains in mutual interests.

The vice president reiterated the invitation from Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh to President N. Mandela to pay an official visit to Vietnam. The new South African president expressed his thanks and hope that he could visit Vietnam soon.

During her stay in Pretoria, Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh had meetings with South African Vice President de Klerk and heads of foreign delegations and international organizations.

She also visited a number of cultural and economic establishments in Pretoria and the vicinity.

Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh and her entourage left South Africa for home on May 13.

King Sihanouk's Border Accusations Denied

BK1705073894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0455 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] HANOI, May 17 (AFP)—Vietnam has denied any territorial ambitions against Cambodia following claims by King Norodom Sihanouk that Hanoi was nibbling away at its neighbour by slowing moving border markers.

"Vietnam has never had ambitions for Cambodia's territory and always scrupulously implements all agreements signed on border and territories between the two countries," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

In an interview with the Far Eastern Economic Review King Sihanouk accused Vietnam of "moving border markers deeper into our territory."

"Now the border markers are walking, they are walking towards the west... they know we cannot take care of two fronts simultaneously," the king said, describing the situation as "terrible."

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge regime which had launched many attacks across the frontier. Hanoi pulled its troops out in 1989 ahead of the implementation of a peace plan and elections.

Phnom Penh has treated Hanoi's denials of territorial ambitions warily as over the last two centuries, Vietnam has pushed further into what was once Cambodian territory.

Commentary Views 'Sabotage' to Ties With Cambodia

BK1705120594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 17 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] There have been many activities in Phnom Penh recently which undermined friendly relations between Vietnam and Cambodia. Following is our radio comment on these sabotage activities.

In Phnom Penh recently, people staged a demonstration with slogans against Vietnam and the friendly relations between Cambodia and Vietnam. Concerning this incident on Monday, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry made a statement saying that Vietnam was very worried at this move aimed to undermine traditional friendship between the two countries, and to harm Vietnamese nationals living in Cambodia. The statement said these acts were beneficial to no one, but created instability and encouraged the Khmer Rouge to destroy peace and the peaceful life of Cambodians and Vietnamese ethnic nationals living there.

The main reason for the instability in Cambodia, despite the UN- sponsored elections, has been the Khmer Rouge. Together with sabotage acts against the national reconstruction of Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge has always waged a national campaign of hatred and massacre against Vietnamese nationals. Reality shows the Khmer Rouge will never stop opposing Vietnam.

Nevertheless, Vietnamese people have cherished hopes for peace in Cambodia so that the people can build a prosperous country. Vietnam places great importance on building and developing a neighborly and friendly relationship with the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the basis of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, nonintervention in each other's internal affairs, and equal cooperation for mutual benefit.

The spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry further said that Vietnam has never coveted Cambodian territory, and has always strictly implemented all territorial agreements signed between the two countries. For this reason, Vietnam requests the Cambodian authorities, as well as authorities in other countries, to assure normal life for Vietnamese nationals, like other foreign nationals in Cambodia, in conformity with international laws and regulations.

Vietnam has reaffirmed its good will in relations with Cambodia many times, but response to this good will depends on Cambodia. The Vietnamese people hope that such acts of sabotage to friendly relations between Vietnam and Cambodia will never take place again in Cambodia.

Cambodian Demonstrators Worry Foreign Ministry

BK1705014494 Hanoi VNA in English 1421 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 16—Concerning the demonstrations by some people in Phnom Penh recently with slogan against Vietnam and Cambodia-Vietnam friendly relations, a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry today released the following statement:

'Vietnam is very worried at some people's acts in Phnom Penh in recent days which aimed to undermine the traditional friendship between Vietnam and Cambodia, and do harm to the Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia. These acts are beneficial to nobody but mislead public opinions from seeing what is the real cause threatening the stability in Cambodia, and unintendedly encourage the Khmer Rouge to destroy peace and the peaceful life of the Cambodians as well as the Vietnamese ethnic nations there'.

The spokesperson stressed that the Vietnamese people have cherished a wish that the Cambodian people have peace so that they can build a prosperous country and that Vietnam attached great importance to the building and developing a close neighbourly and friendly relations with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, non-intervention in each other's internal affairs and equal cooperation for mutual benefits.

'Vietnam has never had any ambition for Cambodia's territory and has always strictly implemented all territorial agreements signed between the two countries. Vietnam requests the Cambodian authorities as well as authorities in other countries to secure normal life for the Vietnamese nationals, like other foreign nationals in Cambodia, in conformity with international laws and regulations.'

Mobil To Implement Contract Signed with Vietnam

OW1505105394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in Mandarin 0830 GMT 14 May 94

[From the "News" program]

[Text] After 19 years, the U.S. Mobil Oil Company has returned to Vietnam to make investments and start operation in Vietnam. A responsible person of the company recently said that the company would strive to make preparations to start oil prospecting in waters near Vietnam's Truong Sa [Spratly] Islands as quickly as possible. On 12 May, a U.S. Mobil Oil Company spokesman said the company would continue to implement the contract signed with Vietnam and explore and prospect for oil together with their Vietnamese counterpart in the Thanhlong area within Vietanam's territorial waters, and that the first oil well would be drilled within the next few months.

The above statement was made by the U.S. Mobil Oil Company in reply to the latest statement issued by the Chinese side.

Spokesman Denies Imprisoned Monks on Hunger Strike

BK1705073394 Hong Kong AFP in English 0445 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] HANOI, May 17 (AFP)—Vietnam denied Tuesday that four monks imprisoned last year following protests in the central city of Hue are on hunger strike and are seriously ill.

A foreign ministry spokesman dismissed as "totally false" a report by the Paris-based International Buddhist Information Bureau (IBIB) that the four members of the dissident Unified Vietnamese Buddhist Church were on a hunger strike to protest their conditions at the Ba Sao re-education camp south of Hanoi.

The monks were arrested and charged with "disturbing public order" after demonstrations in the former imperial capital of Hue last May 24. They were sentenced to prison terms of three to four years after a trial in November.

In a statement released in Paris, the IBIB called on the Vietnamese government to allow representatives of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the monks.

Hanoi denies oppressing Buddhism, pointing to the repair or renovation on nearly all the country's more than 4,000 pagodas in the past three years and the increase in the number of monks and nuns from 17,000 to more than 20,000.

They maintain, however, that all Buddhist "sects" should be integrated into the Vietnam Buddhist Church, which was founded in 1982 under the umbrella of the Communist Party's Fatherland Front.

Authorities also refused access to French lawyers who applied to defend the three monks at their trial and has not allowed journalists or human rights groups to visit the re-education camp where they are held.

The leader of the United Vietnamese Buddhist Church, the Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, is also believed by human rights groups to be held under house arrest.

The foreign ministry spokesman reiterated Hanoi's stance that the monks were tried legitimately for causing public unrest. The protest flared after monks thought police had come to arrest the head of the Link Mu pagoda in Hue.

Australia

Government Report Criticizes U.S. Trade Policy

BK1005015994 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The Australian Government has criticized the United States over maintaining barriers to trade. The criticism follows Washington's annual release in March of its report on foreign trade barriers, which targeted Australia for allegedly retaining trade barriers.

However, as Camille Funnel reports, Australia has responded by releasing its own report saying America's trade barriers are far tougher than Australia's.

[Begin Funnel recording] Australia says it is releasing the report to counter an inaccurate and unbalanced impression of Australian and U.S. trade policies in an annual American trade report.

The document says the imbalance of trade between Australia and the U.S. is over two to one in favor of Washington and is larger proportionally than the U.S. trade deficit with Japan. The report says the fact that a number of major Australian exports are subject to stringent import controls has added to the growing imbalance in trade. The report cites America's use of limits on the imports of beef, sugar, dairy products, and steel, as well as other products.

The report is critical of the American Government's purchasing policy, its taxes on wine and beer, and restrictions in a range of services, such as the aviation industry and financial services. [end recording]

Paper Views Attacks on Proposed EAEC, U.S. Influence

BK1405110494 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 29 Apr 94 p 14

[Editorial: "Diplomatic Silence May Be Prudent"]

[Text] The Minister for Trade, Senator McMullan's strong attack on the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus [EAEC] is unsettling. Not because the EAEC could turn out to be contrary to Australian interests. After all, Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir proposed the EAEC as a regional forum expressly excluding the "white" economies of North America, Australia and New Zealand (all members of the Australian-initiated Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation [APEC] group). But over the past year, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Evans, seemed to represent a sensible view that we had little to gain by making direct attacks on EAEC, and possibly something to lose.

Now Senator McMullan says our Government has a "distinct preference" that the "EAEC either not go ahead or not get any additional significance because we think it would be divisive in the region".

He also emphasised that even if Australia were allowed to join, our Government would still think EAEC wrong in "principle". It may have been wiser to wait and see how both APEC and EAEC develop, and how the relationship between the two grows.

The war of words over the two bodies had eased after last year's ASEAN meeting in Singapore. A compromise was effected whereby Malaysia's EAEC would go ahead, but as a caucus within APEC. Australia was assured that the EAEC would not be allowed to develop in a divisive manner.

At that time Senator Evans implied Australia should moderate its public attacks on the EAEC. Moderation had several things in its favour. Little would be gained by provoking Dr Mahathir.

In any event, it was premature to make judgments about the direction of the EAEC. Indeed, since Singapore, there has been a strong push within ASEAN and among Australian trade experts, including Professor Ross Garnaut, for the EAEC eventually to be opened to Australia.

Conversely, departing from moderation as Senator McMullan has done carries risks. Over the past year a view has arisen in regional capitals, including Tokyo, that APEC has grown so large that it risks losing coherence as a grouping. There has also been concern that it could be too subject to American influence.

That influence is resented when it is seen to try to impose trade quotas on Japan, link China's trade with human rights, and Indonesia's with labour rights. The United States is also using its influence to try to thwart the EAEC, and the danger for Australia in openly attacking that body is that we may be seen within the region as a stalking horse for American influence.

What Senator McMullan—and presumably the Government—seems to be forgetting is that Australia's interests in the region should be paramount.

APEC was an Australian initiative and a diplomatic triumph. In the long term it should not matter if Australia's self-interest is also served by a non-discriminatory EAEC or a link between the free trade areas of ASEAN and Australia-New Zealand, or by some combination of these all within the framework of APEC and operating under the new GATT rules. We should not risk limiting our options at what is still a relatively early stage of our integration with this dynamic region.

UN Request for Troops to Rwanda To Be Considered

BK1605022394 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Australia is considering a request from the United Nations to send troops to the central African nation of Rwanda where heavy fighting is taking place. Discussions will be held this week between the Departments of Defense and Foreign Affairs on the UN request.

Defense Department spokesman, Brigadier Adrian d'Hage said Australia was likely to provide a technical and engineering support for a UN force, but peacekeeping troops were usually sent only after some form of political settlement had been reached.

[Begin d'Hage recording] The sort of things that will be assessed this week are firstly the risk and security of our own troops. There was always a risk when you put military people in, but the risk has to be acceptable and we will also be looking at the likely duration. So there are a lot of factors to be considered before recommendations are made to government and government makes a decision. [end recording]

Iraq To Close Embassy; Financial Reasons Cited

BK1105130994 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Iraq is closing its embassy in Australia as part of a second round of closures of missions in middle-ranking countries. Financial reasons are being cited, according to Australian officials.

The first round of closures occurred six months ago. Iraq's missions in Australia, South Korea, Argentina, and Hungary are among the closures in this second round.

Australian officials say the Iraqi Government plans to maintain some properties in Australia, but it is yet to decide how it will be represented in Australia. Australia does not maintain a mission in Iraq, but it is represented via Amman in Jordan.

BHP Says Spratlys Dispute Not Affecting Oilfield

BK1005022394 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Australia's largest industrial company, BHP, says it has been unaffected so far by the tension between Vietnam and China over the disputed Spratley Islands in the South China Sea. BHP is a partner in a consortium which is expected to begin producing oil later this year from the Dai Hung field in the Spratlys. The consortium leases the field from Vietnam.

Company's chief executive, John Prescott, has said in Hanoi that nothing BHP was doing or plan to do in Vietnam was impaired by the company's assessment of the political situation. However, Mr. Prescott did express disappointment at new figures on the likely oil reserves in the Dai Hung oil reserves in the Dai Hung field which was originally thought to hold 800 million barrels. The Dai Hung field is expected to produce up to 35,000 barrels a day when it goes into production next October.

E. Timor Rebels Say 4 Detainees Being Tortured

BK1605074194 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 16 May 94

[By Jack Taylor]

[Text] SYDNEY, May 16 (AFP)—Three young East Timorese and an Indonesian are being detained and tortured by President Suharto's elite guard over the death of one of its commanders in Jakarta, East Timor resistance sources said Monday.

The CNRM (National Council of Maubere Resistance) released a statement to AFP in an attempt to draw attention to the plight of the detainees.

The East Timorese resistance group said a fifth youth who acknowledges responsibility for his part in what was described as the accidental death of an off-duty Presidential Guard officer is in hiding. But their statement, distributed by the the East Timor News Agency (ETNA), added that he was willing to surrender and face justice if promised a lawful trial.

The incident was said to have happened outside "a gambling location" at a brothel where the five had been forced to take jobs as bodyguards after going to Jakarta a year ago on the unfulfilled promise of jobs.

"East Timorese students in Jakarta appeal to Presidential Guard members to act in accordance with their professional oath and protect the people, punishing wrongdoers in accordance with the laws of Indonesia," the statement said. "Those who protect the President should excel at protecting people, not at torturing them."

The statement said the five young men were promised jobs in Jakarta by the Indonesian Department of Labour and President Suharto's daughter Tutut.

The Presidential Guard commander was said to have been "hired by someone" to expel the East Timorese men and went in civilian clothes to the centre where he assumed that "as is usual in Indonesia, the civilians would be frightened by his presence and follow his orders to leave." Instead, the bodyguards resisted and attempted to chase the commander away, "killing him in the ensuing scuffle."

Four, named as Hercules of Ainaro, Duarte of Lospalos, Domingo of Ermera and Salah from the Indonesian island of Flores had been captured and were being kept at a special closed prison at the Presidential Guard headquarters.

Government Not To Provide Aid to Indonesia

LD1105170894 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1600 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpts] Australia has said it has no intention of replacing the United States in providing military assistance to Indonesia.

The Australian ambassador to Indonesia, Allan Taylor, said the recent visit to Australia by Indonesia's Army Chief General Wismoyo Arismunandar had nothing to do with the so-called effort on Australia's part to replace the U.S. as a military aid donor to Indonesia.

Last year, the U.S. cut its military aid program to Indonesia following allegations that Jakarta had committed violations of human rights in East Timor. [passage omitted]

Mr. Taylor said that, as far as Australia was concerned, the U.S. military involvement in Asia was important mainly because it could help generate economic growth in the region.

Companies Plan Fiber Optic Cable Link With Indonesia

BK1205043094 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 27 Apr 94 p 6

[Text] Rivals Telstra and Optus have teamed up with Indonesian carrier PT [Private Limited] Indosat to lay a 2,100 km fibre-optic submarine cable linking Western Australia [WA] and Indonesia.

The $140 million project will provide a third fibre communications path out of Australia and reinforce WA's push to become a regional business hub.

Companies dealing with Asia would be able to set up leased services linking them with their trading partners and offshore offices in the region taking advantage of the wider bandwidth available on the new link, officials said.

The Australian cable will make land near Port Hedland and Jakarta at the Indonesian end, providing 60 times the capacity of the existing analogue link between Australia, Indonesia and Singapore which will gradually be withdrawn.

A joint statement from Telecom and Optus said tenders would be called in July for the cable which would be ready for service by the end of 1996.

Increase in Aid to South Africa Announced

BK1005122194 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1000 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The federal government has announced a 35 percent increase in aid to South Africa. Development Cooperation Minister Gordon Bilney says Australia will allocate $30 million [Australian dollars] over three years as South Africa makes the transition to a full democracy. He says the funding will finance health, housing, education, and other projects among disadvantaged blacks. Mr. Bilney says it should also benefit Australian companies:

[Begin Bilney recording] In providing our assistance to South Africa, I believe there will be an important role and opportunity for the Australian private sector in contributing its technology and expertise, particularly in areas such as low-cost housing, sanitation, safe water, heath care, roads, and electricity. [end recording]

Evans Explains Efforts To Release Detained Citizen

BK1005031494 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has released a statement on his efforts to help an Australian citizen detained without charge by China. Senator Evans said Australia had been assiduous in its efforts on behalf of James Pang who has been held in Shenzhen detention center since October because of corruption allegations.

Senator Evans, who released the 33-point chronology listing Australia's actions on behalf of Mr. Pang since October, expressed surprise at Australia's commitment to the case has been criticized in a Melbourne newspaper report.

He also released a copy of the letter that he had written to Mr. Pang's wife in Hong Kong last Friday, saying that Australia was taking the case very seriously. He has raised the issue of the Australian citizen being detained without charge with China's foreign minister, Qian Qichen, with Guangdong vice governor, Lu Ruihua, and with the first vice chairman of China's National People's Congress, Tian Jiyun.

Telecommunication Agreement Signed With PRC Company

BK1505124094 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A Sydney-based Australian company has negotiated a telecommunication deal with China which is believed to be worth up to $50 million [currency not specified] per year. (Stand Alite Electronics) has signed a memorandum of understanding with China's System Engineering Electronic Corporation, a semi-government body. The corporation is the largest dealer in communication equipment in China, supplying the railway, defense, and oil industries.

Under the deal, (Stand Alite) will design and install cellular radio equipment as well as supplying support servicing. The company has been conducting research in China for two years to assess the country's communication needs and to develop systems to match. (Stand Alite) has already sold one radio system to the Shanghai Port Authority and has two cellular mobile telephone systems installed in Shantou and Maoming in China's Guandong province.

QANTAS, Aviation College To Train Vietnamese Pilots

BK1305111394 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Australia is to begin training pilots from Vietnam. QANTAS and the Australian Aviation College have won a $9 million contract to train 60 pilots—a deal being sponsored by Australia's overseas aid organization, AIDAB [Australian International Development Assistance Bureau]. Len Novak reports:

[Begin Novak recording] It is the first time any aviation course will be undertaken for Vietnam by Australians. The Adelaide-based Australian Aviation College will train the students to airline entry; QANTAS will teach the students how to fly airliners up to Boeings and Airbuses.

The first group of 20 cadets will start their training next month and together with the rest of the contingent will form the nucleus of Vietnam's new breed of pilots. The country is moving to modernize its fleet and needs qualified crew. It is expected the entire training program will be staged during the next two years, allowing a much needed boost to Australia's ailing aviation industry. [end recording]

Failure To Win Engineering Projects in SRV Cited

BK1205023594 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 26 Apr 94 pp 1, 14

[From Paul Cleary, AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW correspondent in Hanoi and Geoffrey Forday]

[Text] Australian construction and engineering firms in Vietnam have failed to make an impression on initial international tenders for major infrastructure projects, despite the Government's policy of using aid money to help them enter Asia.

In the first international tender for major road building projects in Vietnam, not one Australian company has been successful in getting past the first round and being invited to submit a formal tender.

The World Bank and Asian Development Bank projects to rebuild Vietnam's Highway 1, worth $US355 million, mark the first instalment of an expected $US10 billion to be spent over the decade on major capital works.

Ministerial documents show that out of a field of 150 companies, about 75 were asked to tender for both projects. They include companies from South Korea, Malaysia, China, Europe, Japan and the US. The results of the tender are yet to be made public.

Leighton Asia has confirmed that it failed to prequalify for the tender, although the company has established a presence in Vietnam only recently.

John Holland's application, made in conjunction with the Japanese firm Itochu, has also missed out.

Thiess decided not to enter because the tender was considered too competitive. A spokesman for Transfield declined to confirm whether the company had applied to tender, although one company source had earlier said it would take part.

To qualify, the companies were asked to submit detailed data about their financial position, the amount of current work they had on their books and the projects they had worked on in the past.

The results of this major international tender raise questions about federal government efforts to showcase Australian construction companies in Asia. The recently opened Friendship Bridge between Thailand and Laos, and a proposed $100 million bridge over the Mekong in Vietnam, are in part aimed at putting Australian engineering on show in Asia.

Thiess Contractors' general manager for South-East Asia, Mr Robert Logan, denied the company had lodged an expression of interest in the Highway One project and pointed to the large number of applicants the project had attracted.

Describing the tender process as a "free-for-all", Mr Logan said that with 200 or more companies bidding for the project "the competition was too great and too intense".

The general manager of Transfield's international division, Mr John McGarry, said he was not aware of any unsuccessful tender made by the company in Vietnam.

Mr Ross Baldwin, director of John Holland's Asian operations, confirmed that an expression of interest had been lodged for some of Highway One's bridge work, and said that the company was still waiting on news of the outcome.

Evans Says Military Aid to Cambodia 'Legitimate'

BK1305110594 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, says it is wholly legitimate for the Cambodian Government to seek military assistance from the international community. He was commenting on a warning from Thailand's security chief for Australia not to give military aid, saying it would only escalate the conflict between the Cambodian Government and the Khmer Rouge.

In a statement issued in Canberra, Senator Evans said Australia is giving serious consideration to the Cambodian Government's request for military assistance. He said Australia would consult with and take into account the views of other countries, including Thailand.

The foreign minister said it is in line with the Paris peace accord for the elected Cambodian Government to seek aid from the international community in order to maintain the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. But Senator Evans also made it clear that it would be helpful if countries which committed themselves to the Cambodian peace process were to help the Armed Forces of the legitimate government.

Taiwan's Siew Says APEC Should Be Apolitical

BK0305103494 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 19 Apr 94 p 10

[Commentary by Peter Gill]

[Text] The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] group should remain focused on economic issues and avoid the "complications" associated with political issues, Taiwan's Minister of State, Mr Vincent Siew, warned yesterday. And in an interview with THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW [AFR] Mr Siew also cautioned against forcing the pace of any APEC move towards an institutional framework.

Mr Siew, in Sydney last night to address the Asia Pacific Insight Briefing, appeared to indicate that APEC should steer clear of political disputes such as the U.S. pressure on China over human rights. "I think it will be better for APEC to focus on economic issues only, not to talk about any political issues. (If) it gets involved in political issues, it will become very complicated," Mr Siew told the AFR. While APEC had made "a lot of progress" in the past five years, Mr Siew said he would like to see the organization take on an "institutional framework".

But such a move should only occur when a consensus had emerged among the APEC membership for such a "community". Achieving such a community, however, required patience "because the members of APEC come from different cultural, political, and social backgrounds".

Mr Siew said APEC's goal should be "open regionalism instead of the closed regionalism exercised by the Europeans and others". A judgment on how consistent the North American Free Trade Agreement and the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA] were with open regionalism could only be made in the future. "If they follow the GATT rules, they will become open regionalism. If they just emphasize their own interests then they will just veto the GATT rules and the spirit (of the GATT)," he said.

Asked whether an Australian-New Zealand link with AFTA—as mooted by the prime minister, Mr Keating, last week—could be detrimental to the interests of APEC, Mr Siew said the AFTA and NAFTA membership had given assurances that their regional groupings "will not be against the general objectives of APEC".

"So we hope that kind of assurance can be honored," he said.

Minister Warns of 'Price' to Asian Trade Ties

BK1205041894 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 28 Apr 94 p 5

[Text] The Minister for Trade, Senator McMullan, warned yesterday that Australia would be expected to make further trade concessions as the price of developing a possible formal trade link with South-East Asia.

He said it was inevitable that there would be an entry price if the Federal Government pursued a link between the Closer Economic Relations [CER] agreement and the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA], even though Australia's general level of tariffs was much lower than the ASEAN average.

"If we are to get some sort of agreement about an open trading arrangement between ourselves, we can't expect that can take place without Australia having to make any changes."

He said Australia would come to the negotiating table in a strong position because of the tariff reductions and economic opening that had taken place in Australia in the past decade, but "we can't expect there would be no price".

Senator McMullan was launching a report by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade [DFAT] East Asia Analytical Unit on AFTA where he also announced that Australia would be discussing a possible link with New Zealand officials next week.

The DFAT report, *AFTA: Trading Bloc or Building Block* suggests ASEAN countries "would be keen to tap" the politically sensitive textiles, clothing and footwear market.

A CER-AFTA link would provide the opportunity for ASEAN to "influence and secure (tariff) reductions in areas like textiles, clothing and footwear and motor vehicles."

The report notes that Australia's anti-dumping regime "irritates" ASEAN countries.

Yesterday, Senator McMullan warned against moving too fast towards a formal trade link and suggested that Australia and New Zealand could first establish a dialogue with the AFTA countries to exchange information. The ASEAN secretariat Economic Research Bureau director, Dr Suthat Setbunsang, also said there would be benefits in the AFTA countries learning more about CER because it could provide a model for resolving many AFTA trade issues.

The DFAT report also suggests CER "dialogue" with ASEAN as a first step and ongoing encouragement for further trade liberalisation within AFTA.

Japanese To Supply Satellite Earth Stations

BK1205031994 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 26 Apr 94 p 38

[By Helen Meredith]

[Text] The Australian subsidiary of Japanese company NEC will supply satellite earth stations for the Defence Department's Jindalee Operational Radar Network [JORN] as part of a $4 million contract.

The deal involves four new earth stations to be constructed at JORN transmitter-receiver sites in Queensland and Western Australia and the JORN Co-ordination Centre in Adelaide.

As well, NEC will help expand existing earth stations at other Defence Department facilities to improve communications.

The new stations will be used to carry signals between JORN sites, via a transponder leased by the Defence Department on one of the Optus B-series satellites.

NEC will be required to integrate the new facilities with the management system for the overall Defence Satellite Network under the terms of the contract.

Overall control of the network will rest with the Commander Defence Communications Group in Canberra through the Satellite Facilities Control Centre in Melbourne.

Known as the JORNSATCOM contract, the work carried out by NEC is essentially a turn-key project and will be carried out by a local team skilled in such work.

NEC Australia's managing director, Mr Ben Okamoto, commenting on the use of commercial communications equipment by the Defence Department, said the JORN project represented another step forward in this process.

The Director General Joint Project Management in Defence Material, Brigadier Neil Horn, said Defence had a strong commitment to the electronics industry in Australia.

"The contract with NEC exemplifies the positive benefits of having resident high-technology companies," he said.

Falling Oil Prices Force Firms To Cut Spending

BK1205032194 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 26 Apr 94 p 6

[Text] Two decades of plummeting oil prices have, at times, come close to scuttling the $12 billion North West Shelf [NWS] liquified natural gas project and have now forced the partners into a massive rearrangement of spending priorities.

Woodside Petroleum Ltd, project operator, recently shed 429 staff in a bid to slash $100 million from its operating costs and is screwing back capital expenditure to lift revenue from the project.

When development of the North Rankin, Goodwyn and Angel gas fields began, oil prices were around $US20 and expected to reach at least $US40 over the next 20 to 30 years.

Steadily rising oil prices were expected to underpin the massive borrowings required to fund the $12 billion project and provide an adequate return on the total investment.

But oil prices defied the most pessimistic outlook and lifted the NWS project's payback period by at least a decade.

Now the project's revenue earnings must rise while operating costs are cut to generate the kind of profit level required to provide a decent return on the billions of dollars invested so far.

Dramatic growth forecasts for LNG demand in Japan and other Asian countries is underpinning future LNG sales with every current Japanese buyer understood to consider a fourth NWS LNG train a certain source of future supply.

The initial 20 year LNG export contracts signed between the NWS partners and eight Japanese customers now barely cover the project's cash operating costs, with the remainder used to repay interest on the investment capital and reward shareholders.

The LNG contracts were expected to quickly repay the capital and then generate large profits but the collapse in oil prices, and by extension the LNG price, has dramatically changed the North West Shelf partners' game plan.

Woodside has not yet repaid any of the principal of well over $1 billion it has borrowed to fund its share of the NWS project.

A radical rethink of future development options has seen plans for a third offshore production platform deferred for at least a decade and improved the prospects for the fourth LNG train.

Lifting cash returns by better utilising the existing offshore and onshore assets more effectively means gas production by North Rankin A and Goodwyn platforms will be well above initial plans to feed possibly two new LNG production trains.

The third offshore platform, on the Angel gas field, will not be built this century as planned, but will be delayed possibly until as late as 2010, saving up to $2 billion.

To supply additional gas volumes, required for an extra one or two LNG trains reserves closer to the existing Goodwyn A and North Rankin A platforms are likely to be developed, either using sub-sea well completions or by directional drilling from either of the two platforms.

The North Rankin West field containing 0.45 trillion cu ft (TCF) proved and probable gas reserves is a prime candidate for development using directional drilling from the North Rankin A platform.

A recent big seismic program around the Goodwyn/North Rankin fields is likely to throw up more, adjacent, potential gas reserves, with the exciting West Dixon discovery a principal target.

Woodside managing director, Mr Charles Allen, said the staff cuts would save about $50 million, with another $50 million in savings expected to come from tight controls over operating costs in addition to $50 million in savings achieved in 1993.

Mr Allen said the NWS partners expected to get full value out of the NWS project assets only once full plateau production had been reached, due to occur in 1995.

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